

## Andreotti sees unique chance for peace

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti sounded out Gulf officials and Islamic leaders Sunday to boost peace negotiations in the Middle East. Andreotti met separately with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, Foreign Minister Yusef Bin Alawi of Oman, and Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The six-nation council recently bolstered U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative by agreeing to send Bishara to proposed international peace talks between Israel and Arab states. Details of the meetings Sunday were not disclosed. But in a message to the Islamic conference, Andreotti expressed hope that the 12-nation European Community could act as a "balancing" party in the peace process. "The international community must exploit all the positive factors that can help find the just and lasting settlement to the Middle East conflict," said the message to Hamed Al Gabid, the group's secretary general. The Islamic Conference is an umbrella group of 45 Muslim nations. The text of the message was released at its headquarters in Jeddah.

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## Assad, Mubarak discuss Mideast

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak discussed Middle East developments by telephone on Sunday, presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said. Assad earlier received a message from U.S. President George Bush believed to deal with Washington's effort to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference. Assad met an Italian parliamentary delegation led by senator Mikaili Akell, chief of the foreign affairs committee, on Sunday. Officials said the president reiterated Syria's position "welcoming any effective European role in efforts to establish a just peace on the basis of U.N. resolutions."

## Arafat warned Gandhi of plot

LONDON (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat warned former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of a plot to kill him a month ago, the British newspaper Observer reported on Sunday. It quoted Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar as saying Arafat had warned Gandhi of a conspiracy against his life. Shekhar, who had met Arafat at Gandhi's funeral, said: "He told me of the warning when he came to pay his condolences. Unfortunately it was not the time or place to discuss the matter in detail."

## Turkey, Iraq to resume direct talks

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz will visit Turkey for diplomatic talks this month, President Turgut Ozal told an opposition political leader on Sunday. It will be Iraq's highest-level contact with its enemies since the Gulf war. Turkey, a member of the NATO alliance, did not send troops to the reconquest of Kuwait but allowed U.S. planes to bomb Iraq from its bases. Bulent Ecevit, a former prime minister who leads the Democratic Left Party, met Ozal on Sunday and told the semi-official Anatolian news agency: "I have learned from the president that Tariq Aziz has been invited... This will allow a first step in reviving relations with Iraq."

## Iraq writes off utility bills

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqis, whose public utilities were cut off by Gulf war bombing, were told on Sunday they will not have to pay bills for past 4½ months. A decree signed by President Saddam Hussein cancelled all water, electricity and telephone charges between January 17, when U.S. and allied planes began to attack Iraq, and June 1. Many Iraqis did not receive electricity until April. Most telephones in the country still do not work between districts.

## 175,000 pilgrims so far

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — More than 175,000 Muslim pilgrims have already arrived in Saudi Arabia for the annual haj to the holiest Islamic shrines, according to official statistics released Saturday. The statistics showed that 164,796 have flown, 9,001 came by sea and 1,459 by land. Around 2 million Muslims converge from around the world for the annual rites at Mecca, the birthplace of Prophet Mohammad, and Medina, which houses the tomb of the founder of Islam.

## Germany, Iran sign major agreements

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran and Germany have signed letters of understanding outlining extensive German help in developing ports, power plants, mines and metals, the Islamic Republic news agency reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreements were signed by Iran's minister of mines and metals, Mohammad Hossein Mahloujfi, who returned Sunday from a one-week visit to Bonn. During his visit, he met with German Minister of Economy and Industry Jürgen W. Mollath and the heads of several large German firms, IRNA said.

## Egypt wants high-tech weapons Cheney: U.S. won't pressure Mideast parties into peace

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Sunday that the United States will not pressure Israel or Arab states into starting Middle East peace talks by cutting off arms supplies or any other threats. Cheney said that the United States remained committed to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict but warned that the process will require "great tenacity and determination and may need a lot of time."

In response to a question about why the United States did not pressure Israel to be more flexible on peace talks, Cheney told members of the American Chamber of Commerce at a working

breakfast:

"For us to be in the business of threatening our Israeli friends with arms cutoff for example in order to get them to do something in the diplomatic arena, I think it would be counterproductive. I would think if we would do that with respect to our Egyptian friends, it would be counterproductive."

Cheney said that America's allies in the region like Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia were "very proud people. They do not respond to threats or pressure."

Cheney flew to Cairo Friday from Israel where he announced increased military aid to the Jewish state.

Informed sources who declined to be further identified have said that Egypt has asked for more U.S. F-16 warplanes, tanks, armed personnel carriers, Apache helicopters and artillery. A U.S. official who also spoke on condition he not be named said that no extra military aid was immediately forthcoming.

"We believe the process of encouraging negotiations and beginning discussions on regional arms controls, the process of satisfying legitimate security requirements of our friends in the region, will create an environment in which confidence does exist," Cheney said.

## New cyclone hits Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — A raging cyclone driving huge waves hit southern Bangladesh on Sunday and government officials said they expected a high death toll.

"We are sure that in a cyclone like this, people die by the hundreds," an official from the coastal area of Bhola told Reuters minutes before telephone lines snapped.

Winds of 80 mph (130 kph) and four-metre (13-foot) waves ravaged the districts of Bhola, Patuakhali and Cox's Bazar for three hours.

Relief officials in Dhaka said they had four confirmed deaths in Bhola but expected the toll to increase when reports from remote areas were available.

"It has left a trail of death and destruction," said relief official Mohammad Azharuddin, but he could not give details.

The new storm aggravated the woes of survivors of an April 29

cyclone by uprooting thousands of rebuilt homes and washing away belongings.

"They are back to square one as far as their misery is concerned," said Omar Faruq, relief coordinator in Cox's Bazar.

Azharuddin said thousands of people huddled in cyclone shelters but many had defied warnings and stayed home.

U.S. and British forces and Japanese fire fighters suspended relief operations on Saturday in areas worst hit by the April storm whose 145-mph winds and six-metre waves killed more than 138,000 people.

Major-General Henry Stackpole, commander of the U.S. task force, said the extent of fresh damage to life and property would be known after his troops surveyed newly-ravaged areas.

He said helicopters that flew to safety in Dhaka as the new cy-

clone approached would return to Chittagong on Monday to resume relief operations.

The British naval ship Fort Grange, which lost one of its Sea King helicopters in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday, returned to Cox's Bazar on Sunday after riding out the storm, the British high commission in Dhaka said.

Commander Mike Norman of the Royal Navy, coordinating the British relief mission in Bangladesh, said his team had already returned to work.

"Our first priority is relief operations. Recovery of the helicopter will come second," he said.

Three hundred U.S. army personnel, supported by the supply ship St. Louis, were helping rebuild homes for victims of the April cyclone and inoculating people against water-borne diseases.

## Iran plays up alleged Iraqi violations

IRAN-IRAQ BORDER (R) — Iran, apparently surprised by the survival of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, has begun playing up alleged Iraqi border violations including the shelling of Kurdish refugees inside Iranian territory.

Although some of the incidents have already been reported to United Nations officials responsible for monitoring the border, Iran for the first time took foreign journalists to the scene of one incident in which it says up to 60 Kurds were killed.

Iranian forces guarding this central sector of the border, west of the city of Bakhtaran, said that despite the 1988 ceasefire which ended eight years of war with Iraq, there had been frequent violations, especially since Iraq was driven from Kuwait by allied troops at the end of February.

They said that because of what

they called friendly relations with Iraqi troops they had only reported four recent instances to the Tehran office of the U.N. Border Monitoring Group (Unimog), but the violations had persisted.

The incident described to the foreign journalists occurred on April 13. Its victims were Kurds fleeing a Baghdad crackdown after Kurdish guerrillas staged an uprising in the wake of Iraq's defeat in Kuwait.

A senior Iranian army officer gave a clue to official thinking when he explained why Iran was now giving major publicity to a seven-week-old incident.

Brigadier-General Zabiollah Oskoui, acting commander of an unidentified army division in the area, told reporters Tehran had expected worldwide condemnation of President Saddam for his

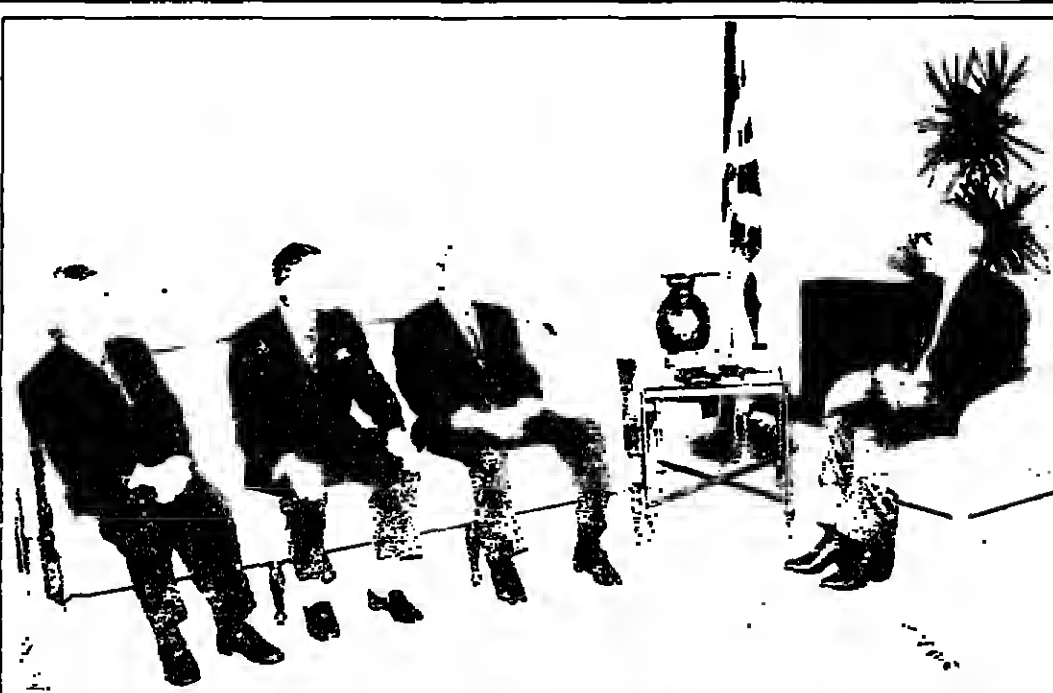
invasion of Kuwait last August to lead to his overthrow.

"When we saw that all the world knows the real face of Saddam Hussein, we thought he would be toppled," he said. "But now we see he is still in power and think it necessary to reveal Saddam's actions."

Iran has long denounced the Iraqi leader, who portrays himself as pious Muslim, as a tyrant and atheist, and bitterly criticised the West for supporting him up until his invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq recently publicised what it said was an Iranian border violation near the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

In the incident publicised by Iran, Iraqi troops stormed an Iranian border post 26 kilometres northeast of the ruined border town of Qasr-E-Shirrin. Iranian Revolutionary Guards said,



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives a Japanese parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

## King receives Japanese delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday discussed with a visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation, Arab-Japanese parliamentary relations and means of enhancing bilateral ties. The Japanese delegation was headed by Mr. Yushiki Kibi. The discussions were attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's military secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Tadayuki Nonoyama. Also Sunday His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received the delegation

and discussed with them bilateral relations. Prince Hassan praised Jordanian-Japanese friendship, and voiced hope that the delegation would have the chance to get first hand information on the latest political and social developments in the Middle East region. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of Asia in the maintenance of world security and economic stability. He explained Jordan's perception of a permanent and stable Middle East, saying that such a stability hinged on the right utilisation of the region's resources, an end to arms race and

addressing the problem of indebtedness.

Prince Hassan, noted that one of the major challenges for any Arab-Israeli peace process is the demographic dimension. The Crown Prince criticised the massive immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, and called for the use of standard criteria when dealing with problems of the region. Mr. Kibi emphasised that the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party was doing its best to help achieve a peaceful solution to the Mideast conflicts.

## Bank issued Visa cards to the dead, witness tells court

By Ahmad Kreishan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — High ranking officials at the now dissolved Petra Bank used to issue Visa (credit) cards to dead people or made-up persons in the course of conducting their embezzlements, witnesses at the ongoing Petra Bank

trials at the Military Court said Sunday.

Some of these officials toured cemeteries to get names from epitaphs of the dead people to issue them with the cards and later transferred the credit to their own accounts, the witnesses said.

Witness Yusef Al Salem said

that Visa cards were already signed and filled except for the dead person's names which were later inserted.

Al Salem told the court the secret code for the bank's safe was placed solely under the control of one woman, in violation of

(Continued on page 5)

## City goes into indefinite strike Hamas, Fateh battle in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A gunbattle between rival Palestinian groups erupted in the heart of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday. Residents said several youths were wounded.

Palestinians said it was the most serious fighting between rival groups of Palestinians during the 42 months of their revolt against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They said the fight started when members of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas attacked an activist of Fateh, the largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The youth, Amar Masurji, shot at his Hamas attackers, who fired back and seriously wounded him, said businessman Said Kenaan.

Up to four other members of

the two groups were wounded by ensuing gunfire, according to residents who said the battle had

(Continued on page 5)

## Rahim warns of Israeli designs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeh Abdul Rahim Sunday warned Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories of Israeli attempts to split and divide the Palestinian people and weaken the uprising. In a statement to Jordan Television, Abdul Rahim called on the Palestinians under the

Israeli occupation to be aware of such Israeli attempts, and to work towards enhancing national unity. He said that the Unified Leadership of Uprising took a number of decisions that aim at forging unity, and foiling Israeli attempts to fuel tribal feuds among Palestinians.

## Al Ra'i turns 20, celebrates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arabic language daily Al Ra'i Sunday turned 20 years old. The newspaper has through the hard work of its staff and their dedication developed into Jordan's leading daily, despite many difficulties over the years.

The Jordan Press Foundation, which owns Al Ra'i and its sister the Jordan Times, celebrated the occasion by hosting a luncheon party at Al Hussein Youth City attended by ministers, deputies, senior government officials, writers, scholars and journalists.

Addressing the party, Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed said that Al Ra'i was committed to the causes of the nation and the country. Al Ra'i, he said, had succeeded throughout its long march in strengthening the expression of free opinion and had taken courageous stands on all issues

pertaining to the nation and the region.

Mr. Al Kayed, who in 1988 was replaced by a government decree, said Al Ra'i is the cause of every Jordanian and Arab. He said the newspaper will remain loyal to the mission of journalism, and will always strive to safeguard freedoms and respect the people's rights.

Mr. Al Kayed (best known among his colleagues as Abu Azmi) added that the paper would carry out its mission objectively and honestly.

The newspaper will not side with any particular group, party or faction, Mr. Al Kayed pledged.

A number of writers lauded the newspaper for its firm stands over Jordanian and pan-Arab issues. The Editor in Chief of the Al Dustour daily, Mr. Mahmoud Al Sharif said that Al Ra'i's 20th birthday was a dear occasion that called

upon him to salute its staff who have worked hard and with dedication to build this high press edifice.

"We recall with our colleagues in Al Ra'i the struggle of the pioneer journalists who founded the newspaper and upgraded it before leaving it for one reason or another," Sharif said.

Hashem Khreisat, chief editor of Sawt Al Shaab, said that Al Ra'i had been an honest documenter of all aspects of life in Jordan throughout two decades. It documented national, pan-Arab and international interactions and developments honestly and responsibly. Al Ra'i's 20th birthday brings joy to the hearts of the Jordanian press as a whole and not only to Al Ra'i staff, Khreisat, who recently left the newspaper after more than 20

(Continued on page 5)

## Israelis bomb Shiite village

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — A Shiite Muslim village came under sustained tank fire from Israel's self-designated "security zone" in south Lebanon Sunday shortly after a pro-Israeli militia patrol was ambushed. Police said six people were wounded. A police spokesman said a patrol of the South Lebanon Army militia was raked by gunfire on a dirt road between the villages of Shakra and Houla inside the security zone at around midday (0900 GMT). One SLA militiaman was seriously wounded in the ambush. He was flown by Israeli military for treatment. Houla is inside the enclave that Israel occupies as a buffer against cross-border raids into its northern territory. Shakra is located about 50 metres westward inside the area of operations of the Irish battalion of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. The spokesman said 80 rounds of tank fire poured on Shakra from the Israeli-held enclave during the four-hour bombardment, which was unleashed minutes after the ambush, wounding five villagers. In Beirut, Hizbollah, or Party of God, said in a communique its guerrillas staged the ambush and claimed four SLA militiamen were killed and "many others wounded." But police in Tyre and security sources close to UNIFIL said only one SLA militiaman was wounded.

## Kuwait to hold elections next year

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait on Sunday called for general elections in October next year and recalled a largely powerless national assembly to head off an increasingly vocal pro-democracy movement.

The emir announced the move in a decree issued through the Kuwait news agency.

But opposition spokesmen described the announcement as an affront to the nation and an unjust reward for having suffered invasion by Iraq and occupation by Iraqi troops.

"This is a defiance of the feelings of Kuwaitis and an affront to them," Abdullah Al Nibari, leader of the Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF) told Reuters.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah had promised opposition activists that general elections would be held some time in 1992 but had hitherto declined to set a date.

The announcement came two days before the opposition planned to hold a rally in front of the emir's palace to back demands for immediate elections and the return of parliament, which was dissolved in 1986.

It said that as an interim step the national assembly, which has no legislative powers, would be reconvened and would hold its first meeting on July 9.

The step had been anticipated by opposition leaders, who held unprecedented talks with the emir last week to protest against the slow pace of democratic reform and against human rights abuses.

Nibari said: "It is a shame that Kuwaiti people who stood steadfastly resisting Saddam Hussein's atrocities should be rewarded in this fashion."

"It shows total lack of confidence by the ruling family in the people of Kuwait and shows how isolated they are from their feelings," he said.

The KDF leader said the distant election date would give the ruling family time to manipulate the poll.

## GCC ministers meet

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The foreign ministers of the Saudi Arabian-led Gulf Cooperation Council met Sunday for the second time in a month to discuss post-Gulf war security for their oil-rich region.

Their earlier meeting in May in Kuwait coincided with the Gulf tour of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney whose country led Operation Desert Storm and has pledged to support the GCC countries against any further threats after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion. Cheney is back in the Middle East though this time he is not visiting the Gulf states. Cheney has visited Egypt, the leading Arab military power on the side of the GCC states.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Though rich in oil, they have only a modest ability to cope with external military threats.

Also on the agenda of the GCC foreign ministers, according to official statements, are efforts to bolster the U.S.-led attempt to arrange an Arab-Israeli peace parity and a call by President George Bush for arms control in the Middle East. GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara, in statements to the Omani news agency, said that Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was on a tour of the GCC to promote the U.S. peace initiative. Bishara met with Andreotti earlier in the day while the Italian leader was in Saudi Arabia on the first leg of his tour.

Bishara is to represent the GCC alliance at the U.S. proposed Arab-Israeli parity as an observer. Bishara also said that the GCC ministers would discuss the broadening of political and trade ties between the GCC and the 12-nation European Community, and GCC relations with the Persian state of Iran.



Al Ra'i Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed (middle with glasses) with 16 staff who received long-service honours at the newspaper's 20th anniversary Sunday (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)



Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait will be daunting. They include Kuwait claims estimated at about \$60 billion, Saudi Arabia's costs for cleaning up pollution in the Gulf, and the claims of thousands of workers who fled Kuwait after the invasion.

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on paying reparations, a request ignored by the Security Council.

There is no sign that the United States, backed by Britain, is willing to let any oil flow out of Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein is in power.

Wright from the Iraqi side reported the Mujahideen saying the Iranian Revolutionary Guards had the advantage of the Iraqi army's preoccupation with the Gulf war and internal rebellions, to send four divisions across the border in March and early April to wipe out Mujahideen training camps.

The Ashraf Camp, near the Iraqi town of Al Miqdadiya, contains the tombstones of 41 Mujahideen fighters killed in the clashes.

The Mujahideen lack the numbers or weaponry to overthrow the Iran government. They deny any violation of the border.

In the incident publicised by Iran, Iraqi troops stormed an Iranian border post 26 kilometres, northeast of Qasr-E-Shirin, Iranian Revolutionary Guards said.

The post was manned by gen-darmes registering Kurdish refugees as they streamed in from Iraq.

An Iranian guards commander who gave his name as Amir said that in a three-day operation the Iraqis shelled Iranian territory, then pushed across the border into a district known as Sartang.

**NICOSIA (R)** Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, starting his Middle East peace mission in Saudi Arabia, said today that he was optimistic for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

"The present international circumstances present a rare opportunity for finding a solution to this problem," Andreotti was quoted as saying in a letter to Hamid Al Ghabid, the secretary-general of the Jeddah-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

On Saturday's letter, Andreotti said the 12-nation European Community (EC) hoped to help balance positions that would lead to a solution to the decades-long problem, guaranteeing the rights of Palestinians.

Israel considers the EC is biased against it.

Andreotti arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday and met King Fahd in the eastern province where the Saudi monarch will attend a military parade Sunday.

The agency said the meeting in the Saudi coastal city of Al Khobar was attended by Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz and several other officials. It

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)** — Turkey has invited Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz for a two-day official visit starting June 12, it was disclosed here Sunday.

The disclosure was made by left-wing opposition politician Bulent Ecevit after briefing President Turgut Ozal on his recent visit to Baghdad. While in Baghdad he interviewed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Aziz for a Turkish newspaper. Ecevit twice led social democratic governments in 1970s.

After talking with the Iraqi leaders late last month, Ecevit quoted President Saddam Hussein as calling for an end to the international sanctions against his country and voicing eagerness for the normalization of ties with Turkey.

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, Turkey blocked Iraqi oil exports by shutting off a pipeline and allowed U.S. warplanes to bomb Iraq from a Turkish air base during the Gulf war.

After the war, Oza! stayed cool towards Baghdad's overtures for the resumption of close ties and said that "Saddam should go and a democratic regime be established in Iraq."

The Turkish bureaucracy, feeling the country was not amply compensated for the Gulf war losses estimated to exceed \$7 billion, has been reported by the press to be displeased by the continuation of U.N. sanctions.

Turkish and Iraqi officials agreed last month to ready the 1,000-kilometre twin pipelines from Kirkuk to a Turkish port for the resumption of Iraqi oil exports, but were frustrated when the U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee turned down Baghdad's request for limited exports to pay for its food imports.

Up to 1.5 million barrels of oil can be pumped daily through the pipelines, which are the only outlet for Iraqi exports since the destruction of a pipeline to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)** — A former prime minister who served under deposed dictator Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam has surrendered to the rebels who have taken over the country, according to rebel radio.

The head of Ethiopia's interim government, meanwhile, has declared that the Mengistu U.S. approval before sending his rebel army into Addis Ababa last week.

The rebel force entered the Ethiopian capital early Tuesday as peace talks were under way in London between the insurgents and a caretaker government led behind by Mengistu, who fled days earlier.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front said Saturday it was holding former Prime Minister Fikre-Selassie Wogderesse, according to a broadcast monitored in London by the British Broadcasting Corp.

The group claimed Fikre-Selassie had "committed many atrocities as the right hand of that (the former) government."

The one-time air force officer retired as Mengistu's no. 2 man in November 1989 because of undisclosed health problems. He had held the post since 1987, and before that was one of Mengistu's three senior ministers.

Fikre-Selassie, who is in his early fifties, was a member with Mengistu of the clique of officers who overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1971.

Mengistu, who fled Ethiopia ahead of advancing rebels, is now living in Zimbabwe.

The Tigrayan-dominated democratic front, which had given members of Mengistu's government until Friday to surrender, said it would give them

two more days.

Meanwhile, Meles Zenawi, chairman of the democratic front, said Saturday that the decision to march on the capital "to restore law and order" was "entirely his and that of his advisers."

Hermann Cohen, the U.S. assistant secretary of state who chaired the talks, has been widely criticized both in Ethiopia and elsewhere for appearing to condone the rebel takeover.

Hundreds of people died in the fighting following the takeover Tuesday. The red Cross said an ammunition dump blew up, and at least 300 people were killed in the explosion alone. Hundreds of others — military and civilian — died in other fighting.

Also Saturday, an influential group of Ethiopian academics accused the United States of orchestrating "a backdoor deal" that led to the rebel takeover.

The commentary came in an open letter signed by 10 University of Addis Ababa professors calling themselves the Committees for Peace and Reconciliation in Ethiopia.

Zenawi, however, said his army would have marched on the capital "with or without" U.S. consent.

The London conference ended with a statement saying Zenawi's rebels would assume temporary control of the Ethiopian government pending formation of a broad-based transitional government no later than July 1.

"In the meantime, our top priority is to establish law and order in Addis Ababa and other parts of the country to facilitate relief efforts" for an estimated 7 million victims of drought and war in Ethiopia, he said.

**DAMASCUS (R)** — Syria said Sunday the arming of Israel by the United States did not serve the cause of peace and would encourage the Jewish state to launch a new war against Arabs.

"While talking about peace and its necessity we should point out here that arming Israel in this declared way does not, in fact, serve the cause of peace....," the ruling Baath Party daily *Al Baath* said.

"On the contrary, it pushes Israel to become more obstinate. It cannot be ruled out that Israel might utilise this to launch a new military operation against the Arab nation."

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Thursday Washington was providing Israel with 10 F-15 fighters jets, would pay most of the cost of a new Israeli anti-missile missile and was stockpiling arms in the Jewish state in case of another war in the region.

His announcement came just

George Bush announced an initiative to control the flow of conventional weapons to the Middle East and introduce a freeze followed by a ban on weapons of mass destruction.

The official English-language daily *Syria Times* questioned how peace could be achieved while Israel maintained military supremacy against Arabs.

In an apparent reference to Bush's arms control proposals, the paper asked: "How could it be reasonable that U.S. arms supplies continue to flow to Israel at a time when the U.S. administration is declaring such a plan."

"The double standard policy does not lead to just and durable peace in the region. There will never be peace in this region as long as the very vital interests of the Arab nation are ignored," the *Syria Times* said.

Cheney is currently holding talks in Egypt, seeking to ally Arab misgivings over his propos-

TEHRAN (AP) — The civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan has complicated Iran's crackdown on drugs, given added incentive to help end the long conflict, according to diplomats here.

"The Iranians are worried about the drug problem in their country," said an Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There is a general feeling that the problem won't begin to be solved until the Afghan issue is settled."

Chaos in Afghanistan has allowed drug growers and smugglers to operate with near impunity, creating a huge supply of narcotics on Iran's eastern border.

Iranian officials themselves claim they are gaining the upper hand in an anti-drug war.

They are fighting it with a ban on poppy cultivating, special drug squads, tougher border patrols and death penalties for those caught with even small quantities of narcotics.

The chief of Iran's anti-narcotics efforts, Doust Mohammadian, said his country's efforts have shown governments that act firmly can "eradicate poppy cultivation and hinder the growth of addition and drug smuggling in the world."

But diplomats here say most of the estimated 300 tonnes of opium produced in Iran is consumed here, and that the country has an estimated 2 million addicts.

The government contends that number has dropped from about 1 million to 600,000.

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The chamber of commerce and industry signed and agreement Saturday with the London-based Fairs and Exhibition Ltd. Allowing this emirate to host its first-ever defence exhibition.

The international defence exhibition, **IDEX'93**, is scheduled for Feb. 14-18, 1993, the chamber said.

Juma'a Ahmed Al Salami, acting director of the chamber who signed the agreement, stressed to reporters that the exhibition is not connected nor would it "contravene" with U.S. President George Bush's call for arms control in the Middle East.

"Regional security means commercial confidence, which in turn, leads to a better quality of life and prosperity for all," he said.

The show will be held under the patronage of the UAE armed forces and the UAE ministry of defence, in cooperation with the chamber, said Virginia Kern the managing director of Fairs and Exhibition Ltd.

Salami said the show will feature the latest technology in land and sea defence equipment and security systems, in addition to telecommunications.

He said major international companies operating in these fields will be invited to take part.

Kern estimated approximately 200 companies will participate.

"The Middle East market is of prime importance to the international defence community and I am confident this exhibition will be an overwhelming success," Kern said.

The same company is planning an air defence exhibition in neighbouring Dubai.

By Andrew Hill  
*Reuter*

KUWAIT — Mohammad Youssef looked wistfully at the practice ground of a Kuwait driving school.

It was laid out with miniature traffic lights, roundabouts, cross roads — the daily hurdles that drivers must negotiate.

But there was one obstacle it did not simulate, the biggest between him and a driving licence. It is *wasta*, a system of influence without which it will take Mohammad years to even get an application form for a learner's licence. The permit will take longer still.

*Wasta* is a colloquial Arabic word for influence. It is not unique to Kuwait — it applies to much of the Middle East — but it is something you cannot easily live without in the emirate these days.

It means knowing someone near the top of the decision-taking process, nurturing that link and using it to get what you want.

It is possible to get by without *wasta* in Kuwait. But in the slow business of returning life to what it was before the Gulf war wrecked everything from telephones to bank account records, a little *wasta* can save days, shoe leather and premature grey hair.

*Wasta* gets what is yours by right quickly. It unlocks doors, whips you to the front of queues, cuts through bureaucracy, oils business. With *wasta* you can

shred bureaucratic red tape.

In the rebuilding of Kuwait after the Gulf war, waste is "as important as cement, stronger than reinforced concrete and more vital than telephone lines," one foreign businessman joked.

There are hundreds of foreign businessmen in Kuwait at present scurrying after contracts for a piece of the 26-30 billion dollar cost of repairing the damage from the Gulf war.

"The Iraqis took everything from Kuwait except the waste system," said one local businessman. "These men with briefcases will need a lot of it to get what they want."

*It applies not only to non-citizens of the emirate such as Mohammad, whose family has been in Kuwait for 50 years. He is a Palestinian and, as such, is used to things taking longer than they might for Kuwaiti citizens.*

Kuwaitis need waste too when they want things done, such as getting an airline ticket when planes are full. At present, planes out of Kuwait are full to the seams, airport sources say.

People are returning to Kuwait to assess war damage to their homes and firms and then going away again. Businessmen are flying in to take orders because phone connections are faulty then flying on again to put them into effect.

"I know a Kuwaiti who had really big waste," one resident recalled. "He knew someone at the airline and got a ticket with a confirmed seat in five minutes. I'd been on the waiting list, which

was a mile long, for the same fight for two weeks," he said in awe.

That was airline wasta. The same man will need wasta from someone else to speed up the visa application for a foreign house maid. Another wasta altogether will be called upon to leap-frog the queue of people waiting to have their air conditioner mended after being wrecked by Iraqi troops.

Work permits and jobs are the two things that most need wasta. "You may have the right qualifications for the job and be available at the right time. But if you don't know somebody who knows somebody who knows someone at the company, forget it," said a Kuwait banker.

In this process there is no suggestion that any money changes hands. It is not bribery, as such. But the man who dispenses airline wasta will probably call on the person he helped for some wasta in a state company where his daughter wants a job.

For Mohammad, it means finding a friend who knows someone in the vehicle licence department he was visited several times for a learner's licence application form.

The form has been denied him for two years, he said. The official reason is that Kuwait is trying to restrict the number of new drivers to cut down on all-too-frequent road accidents.

Mohammad knows, however, that Kuwait acquaintances have asked just once for an application form and got it. They have wasta.



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 11.1mm (2.5) 11.1mm (2.5) 11.1mm (2.5) 11.1mm (2.5) 11.1mm (2.5) 11.1mm (2.5)  
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**PROGRAMME TWO**

18:00	La Belle Anglaise
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Empty Nest
21:10	Nancy Wake
22:00	News in English
22:30	Derrick

**PRAYER TIMES**

06:55	Fair
05:27	(Sunrise)
12:33	Dhuhr
16:13	Aur
19:23	Maghrib
20:19	Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 517040

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Belle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261.

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 813817, 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Further drop in temperature is expected and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman	Min./Max. temp.
12/28	
Aqaba	10/25
Deserts	12/31
Jordan Valley	19/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 33, Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent. Aqaba 18 per cent.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

**AMMAN:**

Dr. Mohammad Mansa	741444
Dr. Awwar Al Haj	771020
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun	787708
Dr. Yousef Sammour	615648
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Amana pharmacy	637655
Nairopkh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Simedical pharmacy	637660

**IRBID:**

Dr. Hamdi Barham	(—)
Al Sheras' pharmacy	273825

**HAZRA:**

Dr. Ziad Hawatmeh	(—)
Khalifa pharmacy	982417

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Central Amman Telephone**

Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661100
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200

**HOSPITALS**

**AMMAN:**

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6442816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn	6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Madhus, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131

**IRBID:**

University Hospital	865495
Al-Musheir Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Abi, Abdali	66416496
Italian, Al-Mulajneeh	771013
Al-Bashir, J. Aslunfeh	7751126
Army, Marks	89161175
Queen Alia Hospital	6622400
Amal Hospital	674135

**HAZRA:**

Zarga Govt. Hospital	09198332
Zarga Catholic Hospital	09198332
Ibn Sina Hospital	09198332

**IRBID:**

Princess Basma Hospital	06237555
Greek Catholic Hospital	06237275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	06234700

**AQABA:**

Princess Haya Hospital	06314111
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**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

06:20	..... Dhabran (RJ)
06:25	..... Jericho, Sannaa (RJ)
06:40	..... Dhabran (RJ)
11:15	..... Larnaca, Dusseldorf (RJ)
17:30	..... Riyadh (RJ)
19:00	..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

14:05	..... Bahrain (GF)
20:05	..... Cairo (MS)

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

12:00	..... Riyadh (RJ)
12:30	..... Montreal, New York (RJ)
20:10	..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30	..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

**UPPERFLOWER PRICE IN \$/KG PER KG**

Apple	720 / 500
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukhammar)	450 / 400
Broad beans	900 / 800
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	220 / 160
Cauliflower	160 / 80
Cucumber (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	120 / 80
Eggplant	340 / 280
Garlic	500 / 400
Leek	320 / 280
Lettuce (per cwt)	120 / 100
Marrow (large)	120 / 80
Marrow (small)	240 / 200
Onion (dry)	200 / 150
Onion (green)	170 / 140
Orange	320 / 250
Pepper (hot)	250 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	250 / 200
Portulac	320 / 250
Radish	120 / 100
Sage	450 / 350
Sweet maize	280 / 240
Tomatoes	220 / 160
Watermelon	220 / 160

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.



# Home News

## Brotherhood urges holy war to 'liberate Palestine'

AMMAN (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood, on Sunday urged Arabs and Muslims to wage holy war against Israel to liberate Palestine.

In a statement published in the Arabic language daily Al-Dustour, the Brotherhood's spiritual leader Hamed Abu Al-Nasr, who is also the general guide of the group, also rejected all peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The group is the largest and most organized political party in the Kingdom, with 22 seats in the 80-member Parliament and roughly a dozen sympathizers among independents.

The party also has links with Islamic groups in other Arab countries and in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"We reiterate that ... Jihad is the only way to liberate our lands and ourselves from the grip of the (Israeli) enemy," Abu Al-Nasr said, referring to Jewish state as well as territories Israel captured from Arabs during the 1967 Middle East war.

"Our struggle with the Zionist entity is an ideological one. (The Zionists) aim at the existence of the Muslim nation," he said.

Abu Al-Nasr urged Arab rulers to turn down current diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully.

The Brotherhood advocates the elimination of the Jewish state.

"All the current political initiatives proposed on the Arab and international arenas to solve the Palestinian problem are aimed at serving long-term strategies of the Zionist enemy and liquidating the Palestinian question," Abu Al-Nasr said.

"Therefore, we strongly reject these initiatives and urge Arab and Muslim rulers to do the same," he said.

The statement said that abandoning Palestine was a treason, "not only of the nation but also of God who warned against selling out the land and the holy places."

The statement added that neither Palestinians nor any Arab leader have the right to determine the destiny of Palestine.

which is the property of all Muslims.

The statement called on Muslims and Arabs to heal their wounds and live up to the level of challenges facing them. It further called on the Muslim nation to unite in the face of the enemies, who seek to obliterate the Islamic and Arab identity, distort the Islamic religion and exhaust their powers and capacities.

The Muslim Brotherhood group warned against establishing relations with the Zionist enemy or concluding any deals with them, saying that the establishment of any such relations with Israel will have grave reflections on the future of the nation and its struggle with the Zionist enemy.

## Iraq to import vegetables from Jordan

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi authorities are trying to buy vegetables worth \$15 million from Jordan for sale at government shops, the semi-official newspaper Babil said on Sunday.

The deal would be one of the first for food imports by the Iraqi state since the United Nations Sanctions Committee gave countries the freedom to release Iraqi assets to buy food, medicines and other essentials.

There is extensive trade across the Iraqi-Jordanian border but Iraqi officials say this is all in the hands of private traders, not the state.

Babil said the cabinet had asked the Iraqi company for marketing agricultural produce, a public sector company, to arrange the deal under "the Iraqi-Jordanian agreement."

The vegetables — potatoes, tomatoes, onions, beans, aubergines, cucumbers and courgettes — would be sold through government shops at the cheapest price possible.

## JUST graduates 3rd batch

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), near Irbid, will turn out its third batch of graduates next Sunday at a ceremony to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

A JUST spokesman, who made the announcement, said 490 students would be turned out, including 28 who just completed their post-graduate studies, 20 of whom obtained their Masters Degree in civil engineering, six in mechanical engineering and two in electrical engineering.

The graduates come from the departments of architecture and civil, electric, mechanical and chemical engineering, pharmacy, nursing and medicine.

Prince Hassan will also attend the ceremony for the graduation of the second batch of students from the civil wing of the Muta University in Karak, Monday.

Speaking on the eve of the event, University President Awad Khleifat said that the total number of students this year stood at 1,300, up from 650 in the 1989-90 academic year.

Dr. Khleifat said that the total number of students in the military and the civil wings stood at 4,156 and the total staff at 174.

In the coming 1991-92 academic year, the university plans to open a new department.

## ICRC relief convoy in Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 36th the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convoy of relief supplies left Amman for Baghdad on May 30, 1991. To date, over 7,800 metric tonnes of relief supplies have been transported to Iraq, using over 500 trucks since the first convoy at the beginning of March.

Amongst the relief supplies transported so far are the following: 5,800 metric tonnes (mt) of food, 184 mt of medical supplies, 415 mt of sanitation supplies, 405 mt of fuel, 946 mt of various relief goods (tents, blankets).

The World Food Programme (WFP) has donated over 5,100 mt of food, the rest of the goods and equipment having been donated by various Red Crescent societies.

During the next two months more food and medical supplies are due to arrive in Jordan to be then transported to Iraq for use in the ICRC's distribution programmes throughout the country. Jordan remains the ICRC's most important logistic base for ICRC relief operations in Iraq.

## Israel arrests 268 Arabs, demolishes 20 houses, closes 32 schools in April

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli authorities in April tried and imprisoned 268 Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories and imposed fines on many more in pursuit of its arbitrary rule, according to a monthly report about the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

The report published here by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, said that the Israeli authorities had confiscated 4,612 dunums of Arab land in the West Bank for the establishment of Jewish settlements.

Since the start of the intifada, in December of 1987, the Israelis confiscated a total of three mil-

lion dunums of land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and increased the Jewish settlements in the two regions to 200, the statement added.

The report said that the Israeli authorities were maintaining their repressive measures against the Arab citizens in different forms including mass arrests, the imposition of heavy taxes, the uprooting or of Arab-owned trees, the closure of schools and universities and house arrests of prominent Palestinian activists.

Referring to the condition of the detainees in Israeli jails, the report said they are deprived of their basic rights, are kept in non-hygienic conditions and are

treated in an inhuman manner. The imposition of long curfews has been causing untold sufferings for the Palestinian people, especially residents of the refugee camps, said the report.

It noted that the Israeli authorities in April demolished 20 houses belonging to Arab citizens and eight stores owned by Arab merchants in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Since the start of the intifada, the Israelis demolished 391 homes in the two areas and permanently closed 261 homes, the report said.

Also during April, it said, 32 schools were closed for two successive weeks.

## VTC to train 14,000 in 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Sunday moved to provide backing to the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in its bid to find jobs for unemployed citizens of Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, released a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Moudar Badran urging all government departments and public institutions to coordinate plans with the VTC to achieve that goal. The communiqué said that the VTC was offering various types of training courses, in a number of trades, to prepare skilled workers and to raise the efficiency in general.

"The VTC is opening various training programmes at its centres

around the country to provide training to the unemployed Jordanians and to provide on-the-job training to workers in the public and private sectors in a bid to meet the needs of the Jordanian community," the communiqué added.

It said that the VTC's programmes envisaged giving training to no less than 14,000 citizens during 1991, and requested various departments to coordinate their plans with the VTC. It also said that the new plans aimed at increasing the number of workers acquiring training in areas badly needed in the country.

The prime minister instructed these departments to allocate

special funds from their annual budgets to be paid as bonus to the workers undergoing training or conducting field work.

The prime minister's communiqué follows his statement, last Monday, in which he stressed that the government had no alternative but to increase the number of vocational training centres to provide training in different trades and at different levels so that the country could have sufficient skilled workforce.

He made the statement after opening an exhibition, organised by the VTC, displaying samples of products by 15 vocational training centres in Jordan.

## Public holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — June 10 marks the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day in Jordan and will be observed as a public holiday,

according to an official announcement here Sunday.

The announcement said that all government departments and public institutions would remain closed on that day in commemoration of the anniversary.

## Prince Hassan lauds tae kwon do team, urges strenuous training for future wins

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday congratulated the national tae kwon do team who won second place in the fifth international tae kwon do games held last month in Yugoslavia and urged its members to exert more efforts for further gains.

Addressing the team members at a meeting held at Al Hussein Youth City, the Crown Prince

said that Jordanians took pride in this great success achieved by the Jordanian youth and expect more successes at Arab, Asian and international competitions. He said further constant training was required if Jordan was to attain successes in future games.

He said that further efforts and serious preparatory work was needed if Jordan was to take part in the coming Barcelona Olympiad in 1992.

Following the meeting with the team members, Prince Hassan said in a statement to Jordan Television that he was very proud of the success achieved by the national team, and urged Jordanian organisations, universities and youth clubs to pursue their encouragement of Jordanian youth to increase their competitiveness and secure further gains for their country.

Jordan came second in the international tae kwon do competition in which 16 countries took part with Mohammad Al Zoubi winning the gold medal.

The other team members, Hussein Makki, Yousef Abu Zaid, Ammar Fahd and Tawfik Nuweiser won bronze medals at the competition.

## CAEU chief calls for unity

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim Sunday issued a statement calling on Arab countries to exert serious efforts towards enhancing the role of pan-Arab institutions, especially those dealing with economic affairs, in order to boost inter-Arab cooperation.

"It is incumbent on us, Arabs, at this critical stage, to adhere to the objectives and concepts of the Arab organisations operating under the umbrella of the Arab League so that we can overcome all weaknesses and causes of divisions and embark on a new phase of inter-Arab relations that places higher national interest above all other considerations," said Mr. Ibrahim in a statement Sunday, on the eve of CAEU's 27th anniversary.

The Arab World, he said, is currently facing serious challenges that can only be confronted through collective action and unified stand socially, politically and economically.

He said that since its establishment, the CAEU witnessed major achievements despite the obstacles and the differences among the Arab countries.

Mr. Ibrahim said that Arab organisations could serve as a sound basis for unity among the Arabs, "but it is regrettable to say that political decisions had more often than not disrupted joint Arab action."

Since the start of the Gulf crisis, Dr. Arabiyat said, Jordan has been urging the Arabs to find peaceful means of settling differences between Kuwait and Iraq and repeated the same call during an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting held recently in Libya.

Dr. Arabiyat said that the Arab parliamentarians adopted a unified stand at the APU meeting, voicing total support for Iraq and for solidarity among Arab states.

Dr. Arabiyat expressed hope that the visit would pave the ground for other meetings among Arab countries, especially through APU, to serve Arab interests.

Dr. Arabiyat said he would hold talks with Iraqi officials on parliamentary affairs, on opening of communication between Iraq and the Arab countries and on bilateral relations.

## Awqaf minister denies Egyptian paper report

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Kilani has denied statements attributed to him in the Egyptian Akhbar Al Yom newspaper published last month.

The paper had quoted Dr. Kilani as pledging to the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's voice in the Arab World, and to have apologised to the president for having adopted previous stands unfavourable to Egypt.

In a statement published Sunday, the minister said that he was one of the participants in an Islamic conference, held in Cairo between April 25 and 27, when he met the Egyptian president along with the other participants.

"At the meeting, I put forth Jordan's stand with regard to joint Arab action on Palestine and denounced repressive regimes that do harm to the dignity of man and bring about disaster to the nation," said Dr. Kilani in his statement.

He said that he had told the Egyptian president that the Israeli intelligence (Mossad) had penetrated all Arab countries and warned of this grave danger. He said he had spoken frankly and openly in the presence of all the heads of the various delegations, but never apologised for anything as the Akhbar Al Yom newspaper had falsely reported.

The minister said that questions related to political and economic issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic worlds were the only subjects discussed at the meeting.

## Jordan, Iraq to discuss parliamentary issues, ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat leaves for Baghdad Monday on an official visit, at the invitation of the Iraqi parliament, to discuss parliamentary affairs and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement on the eve of the visit, Dr. Arabiyat said that the visit was designed to help Arab countries coordinate their stands and bolster solidarity among them as well as help the current political and economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

The delegation members will also study the situation in Iraq and discuss means of confronting the hostile designs of dismembering the Arab countries," said Dr. Arabiyat.

Since the start of the Gulf crisis, Dr. Arabiyat said, Jordan has been urging the Arabs to find peaceful means of settling differences between Kuwait and Iraq and repeated the same call during an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting held recently in Libya.

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## Innab, Altsen discuss Jewish immigration

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Ahmad Innab Sunday discussed with Harold Altsen, North Liverpool's candidate for the House of Commons elections, the Israeli expansionist policy in the occupied Arab territories and the Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Mr. Innab and Mr. Altsen, stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, in accordance with international resolutions, and called for enhancing Jordanian-British relations.

The meeting was attended by the Committee's Rapporteur Issa Madanat and the committee's member Sa'd Haddadin.

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## Israel blocks U.N. special mission

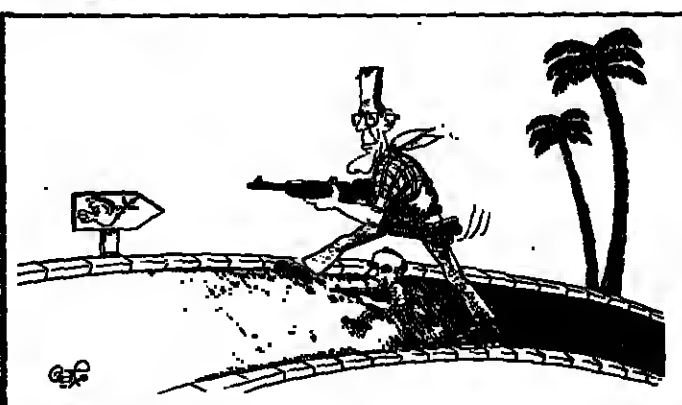
THE U.N. special committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories that has just concluded a working visit to Jordan has been trying to conduct its work and carry out its mission since 1968 without ever succeeding in visiting the territories being under occupation. This year as in every year for the past 23 years, the committee has contented itself with visiting Jordan, Syria and Egypt in a bid to improvise and gather the necessary information and data on the Israeli violations of the human rights of Palestinians and other Arabs under occupation since 1967.

"We are not able to visit the occupied territories since we have not had positive response from the Israelis," complained the chairman of the committee on Tuesday. "Instead," the chairman continued, "we receive newspaper reports on incidents related to human rights violations." He confirmed that the committee has listened to some 13 witnesses from the West Bank during its three-day fact-finding mission in Jordan.

Although the U.N. General Assembly resolution that created the committee had specifically called on Israel to cooperate fully with and allow it to visit the occupied Arab territories, Israel has been able since the inception of this body to abort the committee's mandate by constantly refusing to facilitate its admission to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. And by consenting to carry out its missions from outside the occupied territories, the committee has created a dangerous precedent that has not been possible to reverse all these 22 years.

One wonders if instead of allowing the committee to conduct its work under the existing absurd conditions, the U.N. General Assembly may not consider making a more determined effort to facilitate the entry of the U.N. mission to the areas that are under scrutiny. The bulk of the information being gathered by the mission members under the prevailing conditions is at best marginal compared to what can be collected in the real field. The Arab governments and the supporters of the Palestinian cause should therefore raise the issue during the next session of the U.N. General Assembly and insist on the full cooperation of Tel Aviv for the carrying out of the mandate of the special committee. The support of Washington and its allies should also be sought in this legitimate endeavour.

Since Israel feels that its human rights record in the West Bank and the other occupied Arab territories is either perfect or near perfect, it has nothing to fear from the visit of the committee. By refusing to cooperate with the three-member body, the Israeli occupying authorities are in effect giving additional credence to the internationally-held view that it is violating every provision in the Fourth Geneva Convention.



## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Sunday celebrated its 20th anniversary with its Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed pledging in an editorial that the paper will remain faithful to its readers and fully committed to serve the nation. There can be no way of going back or delaying the newspaper's progress and continued improvement specially as the country is entering the last decade of the present century and a new phase of democratic rule, said the editor. He pledged that the daily will continue to serve as a forum for all ideas and the tendencies and thoughts of various groups and individuals, free of all forms of hatred, selfishness and narrow-mindedness. He said that as it has been the practice in the past, the paper will continue to hold supportive or divergent views from those held by prime ministers, Cabinet members and Parliament deputies or other officials in the course of a race to serve the country and the Jordanian citizens and Arabs at large. The editor considered Al Ra'i as a public organ of monitoring and helping to control various developments, and deal with different issues of concern to the public with total frankness and objectivity in a purely constructive manner. The writer said that the newspaper will always serve as an arena where various opinions are put forth and debated and where various writers and citizens can have their say freely, because the Al Ra'i, he said, will remain the rightful property for all citizens.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily dwelt on Washington's plans to disarm the Middle East, and asked why should Israel be exempted from such a plan. The paper said one cannot help expressing astonishment over the U.S. administration's insistence on pursuing double standard policies towards the Middle East. Washington is busy nowadays, bragging about its disarmament plans through the media and official information services at a time when U.S. administration officials announce new arms deals for supplying the Jewish state with rockets and war planes. It said there is no doubt that the U.S. administration is striving to maintain Israel's military superiority over the Arab countries by any possible means; and it is clear that Washington is determined to pursue this strategy.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Arab side can be dead right

IF this time around, the Baker initiative is aborted for one reason or another, on balance the Arab side would be the bigger loser. Israel has everything to gain if the ongoing peace initiative comes to naught because this serves its interests best. Ever since time immemorial, Israel benefitted from the lack of movement in the search for peace in the Middle East.

By the same token, the Arabs have always been the losers when there was no viable peace process in the Middle East peace market place. So while we may take comfort in rejecting a peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict without an effective U.N. involvement, we must likewise take stock of where this "correct decision" is leading us. Our rejoice may end up short-lived if the demise of the Baker peace initiative is exactly what Israel seeks as a prelude to the expansion of its settlement programme in the Arab territories leading to their annexation.

Continuing Israeli colonisation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights can be best characterised as de facto annexation of these territories. Even Washington is getting exasperated by Tel Aviv's persistent confrontation of every U.S. peace initiative or a Baker visit to Israel with more and more settlement building. At least on this point, both Arab and non-Arab countries see eye to eye and agree that the Israeli settlement policy is the highest hurdle in the path of the peace process wherever it is.

From the Arab point of view as long as the Arab population of the occupied territories is kept intact and the creeping movement

of Israelis into those territories is kept at bay, there will always be hope to retrieve the West Bank and the other Arab territories from Israeli designs and manipulations. So the issue of Israeli settlements in Arab lands has got to assume a heightened priority and urgency in the wake of massive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the world to beef up the Israeli population. There must be a growing sense of realisation that burgeoning Jewish population will ultimately have no place to go except to overflow to Arab territories in view of the limitation on Israeli territory to accommodate the new floods of Jews. What all this boils down to is that frustrating such an Israeli master plan to evacuate the Arab territories of their indigenous Palestinian population and replace them with new Israeli citizens is a most pressing issue and overriding objective. If there is agreement on this situation, then Arab efforts need to be directed first and foremost to the objective of stopping the colonisation of Arab territories at all costs.

This means accepting a peace formula that can at least halt the creeping de facto annexation of Arab lands. For this limited purpose, one may even entertain accepting interim peace formulas or partial solutions that can put an end to the Israeli colonisation of Arab territories.

As long as there is no semblance of movement in the peace process, the chances are greater that Tel Aviv would accelerate its settlement programme. In other words, as long as the peace process in the Middle East is held in abeyance for whatever

reason, good or bad, there will always be the risk that Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his clique will exploit the non-movement in the peace process to speed up their settlement ambition.

By and large the Arab postures on opportunities for peace in the Middle East have been too academic and grossly legalistic. There is an expression that I had learned a long time ago that pertains to driving habits and is applicable to the politics of the Middle East. It goes like this: One can be right in his driving style as far as the rules of the game are concerned but he can also be "dead right" at the same time for insisting on his or her right of way, etc. The moral of the story is that it is high time that the Arab parties weigh their options when rejecting or accepting any given proposal for peace. When the partition plan for Palestine in 1947 was rejected, no one bothered to inquire about the alternatives. As imperfect as that partition plan was on balance it was the best available option that the Palestinians could have enjoyed. The same short-sighted approach to peace options was maintained by the Arab parties even though their fingers were burned on all occasions. At the rate things are going in the area, there would not be much to salvage by the end of this decade. Given Israel's well-calculated campaigns to swell the Israeli population and create new facts on the ground, the Arab side can ill afford the luxury of being too moralistic, academic or legalistic in its search for a temporary solution to the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

## Drums of war on Iran-Iraq border

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

ASHRAF CAMP, Iraq — The drums of war are beating on the Iraq-Iran border, where an August 1988 ceasefire looks increasingly fragile.

At eight in the morning, at a parade ground within view of the Iranian plateau, a disciplined army of Iranian exiles is drilling to the rousing music of the Mujahideen Khalq Movement.

"Fire" about the ranks of men and women, Kalashnikovs at their shoulders, at the climax of a fighting song called "Massoud's Order" — after Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi.

The movement's National Liberation Army of Iran does not have the numbers or the weaponry to overthrow the Tehran government but its ambitious talk and recent skirmishes with Iran's Revolutionary Guards suggest that all is not well along the frontier.

U.N. truce observers pulled out of the area last December, Iran and Iraq, which fought for eight years up to 1988, are back at their old practice of subverting their neighbours through dissidents.

Young Iraqi men, tired of wasting years on the front, first against Iran and then to defend Iraqi-occupied Kuwait from U.S. and allied forces, say their worst fear is renewed war with their powerful eastern neighbour.

Diplomats say outright war is unlikely but relations between Baghdad and Tehran are increasingly hostile. Neither side is trying to be conciliatory.

Iraqi officials say Iran and the United States have a secret agreement for Iran to complete what Washington failed to do in the Gulf war — overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

Iran openly encouraged Iraq's Shi'ite Muslims to rise up against President Saddam in March, when abortive rebellions swept the Iraq south and Kurdish north. Tehran has also impounded more than 100 Iraqi warplanes, flown across the border in January and February, apparently to save them from allied bombing.

At Ashraf Camp, between Baghdad and the Iranian border, these developments are good news to the Mujahideen Khalq (the people's fighters).

"We have gained much experience in the latest fighting and we are preparing for bigger battles in the future," said operations officer Ali Akbar Anbar.

"Our strategy is a war of liberation to overthrow the Khomeini regime by armed force. We believe we have the capability to destroy their armed forces," added camp commander Hossein Abrishamchi.

Until a series of engagements inside Iraq in March had early April, the Mujahideen had not fought since July 1988, when they advanced deep into Iran along

side Iraqi forces.

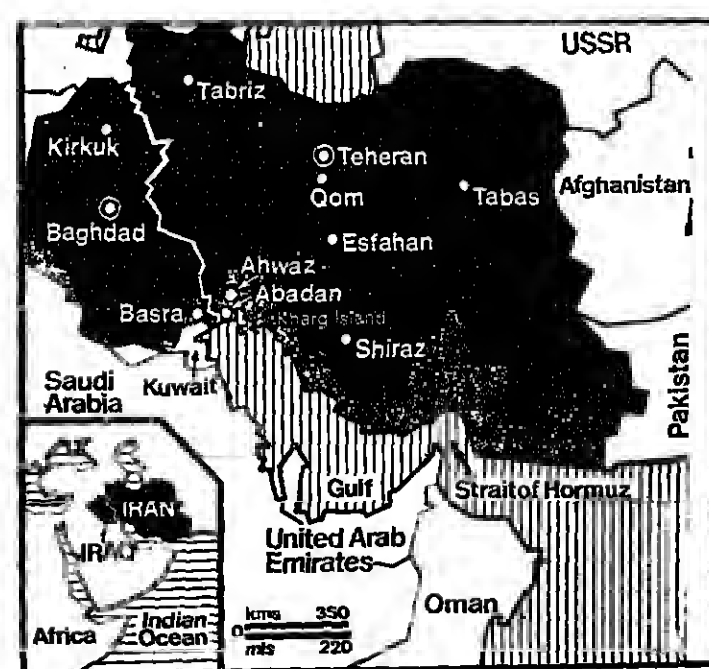
They know that peace along the border could spell a slow death for their movement. Its fighters, held back by the Iraqis, would lose hope of launching an offensive.

Pressed on the movement's ceasefire policy, Abrishamchi said, "We shall respect it but we face the Khomeini regime, which has little respect for such things."

An army political officer said the situation was so volatile that the Mujahideen expected to find a way round any temporary obstacles to their military ambitions.

The Mujahideen's public relations department, as calmly efficient and enthusiastic as their army, meanwhile tries to publicise as much as possible Tehran's most bellicose statements.

**'Iraqi officials say Iran and the United States have a secret agreement for Iran to complete what Washington failed to do in the Gulf war — overthrow President Saddam Hussein.'**



## Glittering skeletons in Giscard's closet

By Stuart Wavell

IT WAS supposed to be the final word of a scandal that helped to bring down France's last president. But a candid account of the infamous "diamonds affair" by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has reopened the controversy and, some believe, damaged his chances of returning to the Elysée.

The exculpatory version by the 66-year-old French politician, whose new volume of autobiography denies accusations that he pocketed diamond gifts from Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the self-styled emperor and president-for-life of the Central African Republic, was immediately challenged last week by those who originally exposed the imbroglio.

"It's an old song, and Giscard is singing a false note," commented the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné, which caused a sensation in 1979 by reproducing a letter signed by Bokassa authorising a tray of 30-carat diamonds, valued at an estimated 1m francs (£100,000), to be presented to Giscard.

A recent opinion poll made him the best-placed conservative candidate for the 1995 presidential election. But the candour of his latest memoirs, which raise further questions over the diamonds affair, could rapidly undermine his political rehabilitation.

In his book The Confrontation, Giscard, the leader of the con-

servative UDF party, makes the astonishing confession that the attacks on him were so humiliating that he avoided reading political articles for seven years.

More contentious were his claims that the famous "Bokassa letter" had been forged by an accomplice of the African dictator in revenge for the coup d'état that Giscard successfully mounted against him in 1979, and that the value of the diamonds — which he admitted receiving — was a fraction of Le Canard Enchaîné's estimate.

The affair took another unexpected twist last week when the journalist who had obtained the original "Bokassa letter" revealed the identity of his source. Far from being a friend of Bokassa, his informant was a disaffected adviser to the "emperor."

The scene was photographed by the official news agency in the Central African Republic, Pierre Péan claimed in the left-wing daily Liberation. "After that, each time the adviser went into his boss's office, Bokassa proudly exhibited the photo, saying: 'You see, Giscard d'Estaing is my friend.'"

In addition to these contradictions, reviewers have been intrigued by Giscard's reluctance to mention the word "diamonds" in his 56-page chapter on the affair. Explaining this inhibition, Giscard said: "The word is magic. It is a symbol of wealth. It evokes fabulous, unlimited resources,"

whereas, he insisted, they were "of no great value" and too poorly cut to be mounted in jewellery — certainly not the 30 carats mentioned in the "Bokassa letter."

Elaborating in a television interview, he claimed that Le Canard Enchaîné, which obtained the 1m franc estimate from a jeweller in the Central African Republic, had been confused. The figure was in local francs, reducing the diamonds' value to £2,000.

Giscard insisted that he had been the victim of "a machination, whose authors I know," and announced that he would reveal the full details in the next instalment of his autobiography. This has not quietened speculation, nor has his published list of the 173 diamonds that he admits receiving from Bokassa over a five-year period. The proceeds from their sale, amounting to about £11,000, were divided between humanitarian causes, he reported.

Describing the fateful presentation (his second) at Bokassa's palace, Giscard writes: "At the moment of [my] departure, he took from his desk a small box and some objects wrapped in paper. 'These are souvenirs of this country,' he told me. 'In the box are two cardboard trays containing brilliants. I have created a school at Bangui to teach the cutting of stones. You can see what our pupils are already capable of doing.'"

Giscard claims that the damning "Bokassa letter" was a fake found by DST secret service agents at the French home of Roger Delpey, a sympathiser of the disgraced dictator. Delpey, according to Giscard, had visited Bokassa in exile in the Ivory Coast and obtained his signature on numerous blank pages, which he later filled in.

Pierre Péan's account directly conflicts with this version. The independent journalist, author of a biography of Bokassa, says he obtained the document from Maurice Espinasse, a French civil servant who became Bokassa's closest adviser, and who witnessed the presentation.

Espinasse died in 1989, aged 66. But Péan and Le Canard Enchaîné referred last week to other documents seized from Bokassa's palace by French paratroopers. Their mission, Le Canard Enchaîné claimed, was "to protect the reputation of a president."

The satirical paper enumerated other omissions from Giscard's memoirs: the diamonds that spelt out his name on his hunting rifle, the "famous" Bokassa offered to Giscard's cousin François, the "marvellous carpets" offered by the Shah of Iran, and a 10-kilo gold ring handed over by the president of the Ivory Coast.

"My cure is now complete," Giscard writes. Many believe that his tribulations have just recommenced — Sunday Times.

## A walk for peace

By E. Yaghi

THE Middle East has been the scene of turbulence for over half a century. Peace is an intangible dream that beats in the hearts of millions of Arabs. However, during the Gulf war, the Gulf Peace Team, a group of people from all walks of life and from all over the world, congregated in Iraq with the hopes of preventing the outbreak of armed conflict. Although many members of the original Gulf Peace Team have returned to their various countries of origin, there still remains some dedicated individuals in Amman who are more aware of the problems characteristic of this area than when they first arrived. These remaining members share a concerned interest in current Middle Eastern events. High on their agenda is to find a solution to the perilous situation in the occupied Arab territories. The office coordinators of the Amman-based Gulf Peace Team are Kathy Kelly and Carl-Erik Passonson.

Because of their concern, the Gulf Peace Team is undertaking a Peace Walk that will begin in Jerusalem on June 4, 1991. This date will coincide with The International Day For Children As Victims Of War. The walk will last seven days in memory of the 1967 war that began June 5, 1967. Participants of the Peace Walk will come from around the world. The purpose of this endeavour is to gain global attention to encourage peace and justice in the Middle East and to focus international attention on the Palestine problem with the hopes of finally implementing the U.N. resolutions which were passed concerning the protection of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Gulf Peace team deplores all violations of human rights as well as the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian land. The Gulf Peace Team hopes to build a viable framework for peace.

Some of the participants in the Peace Walk should have arrived in Jerusalem on June 1 before the event takes place to attend workshops, train for non-violence and to meet with eminent Palestinians such as the lawyer Dr. Jonathan Kuttab and Faisal Husseini. One of the workshops will be a workshop on the intifada and human rights in the occupied territories.

On the first day of the walk, Tuesday, June 4, a witness from the participants will be present at the Israeli Knesset and also a witness will be present at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. There will also be a vigil at one of the Israeli prisons where Palestinians are held. The length of the walk will be about 120 kilometres. The participants plan walk from Jerusalem towards Jordan and intend to enter Jordan on June 7. On the morning of June 8, they will walk to Salt and on June 9, they will then walk to Amman and arrive here on June 10.

The ninth convoy of medical relief supplies was sent on May 28 to Iraq with some members of the Gulf Peace Team as well as other people representing the United States and Germany. The cost of the medical supplies on the convoy is close to \$8,000. An American group called the Caravan of Solidarity and Resistance For an Awareness of Iraqi suffering raised \$15,000 to be divided between citizens of Iraq and the Gaza Strip. Other groups represented on the convoy are: The National Assembly of Religious Women, The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre and the Eighth Day Centre For Justice. Those persons accompanying the convoy to Iraq hope to complete their mission in Iraq and be present in Jerusalem by June 4, in time for the Peace Walk.

The Gulf Peace Team invites the people of Jordan to join them on June 7 at the bridge for the continuation of the Peace Walk. Anyone interested in joining the Peace Walk may call the Gulf Peace Team office at telephone number 665-410. May God bless the courageous efforts of the Gulf Peace Team and may we all find peace.

## Congratulations

To the Editor:

IT IS with great pleasure that I celebrate the twentieth anniversary of your prosperous foundation, the Jordan Press Foundation. The Foundation has for twenty years been providing the Jordanian community with news and views and has deserved its readers' confidence by reporting and suggesting developments concerning Arab and Palestinian rights.

The Foundation well-known for its coverage of varied issues has its distribution significantly increased and still has the potential of being brought to each door of every home in Jordan and the Arab World.

Al Ra'i has grown to be the leading newspaper in Jordan due to its editors' and reporters' continuous effort to produce high quality material.

The Jordan Times, as an English newspaper, has improved Jordan's press standard and enhanced its achievements. On the Foundation's twentieth anniversary, we take the chance to extend our congratulations and encouragement, wishing you a more prosperous future and brighter years to come.

Faraj Basail,  
Country General Manager,  
Skypek,  
Amman.

مكتبة الأصل



## Hamas, Fateh battle in Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

beco brewing for weeks. "It is a very dangerous and volatile situation," Kanaan, who has nationalist connections, told Reuters. "We have to separate the Hamas and Fateh supporters."

Kanaan spoke from his office, which was closed as part of an indefinite protest strike against the internal fighting. The strike abruptly shut down all business in the largest Palestinian city outside of Jerusalem.

A brief clash took place last week. Differences had emerged over the PLO's endorsement of contacts between Palestinians and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Hamas, which seeks the elimination of Israel, opposed the meetings.

## Visa cards for the dead

(Continued from page 1)

instructions given by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Banking circles say the loss incurred by the treasury to the bank's liquidated process and the CBJ takeover in 1989 amounted to no less than JD 400 million. Over 50 per cent of this amount has been pumped in by the CBJ to keep the institution afloat before ordering its liquidation.

The court trials of nearly 45 people involved in the embezzlement of Petra Bank funds started last week soon after the completion of the public prosecutor's investigations into the case.

The government which froze all marital law provisions in early 1990 said that cases related to Petra Bank, once the second largest bank in the country, would still be handled by the Military Court.

Al Salem told the court in its third session Saturday, that he was appointed head of a special committee entrusted by the military prosecutor to conduct investigation into the embezzlement cases involving Petra Bank employees, and to determine the total amounts of funds that had been

Kanaan said a joint statement resolving their differences, had been expected on Sunday. Instead the feud erupted into open battling in the Casbah, the Ottoman-era labyrinth of shops and homes in the heart of the city.

However, Kanaan described the fighting, which included the use of at least one submachine gun by Hamas, as mainly a product of teenage gang rivalries.

"The hatred between the two parties was always there," he said. "In the Casbah the differences were not political or religious. It was differences between teenagers."

Kanaan said: "Anyone from Hamas who sees anyone from Fateh on the street now will try to stab him — it is very dangerous."

embezzled.

He said that his task was vast that he had to look into records and documents before submitting a detailed report to the government.

A Salem told the court that the 11-member committee he headed submitted a total of 106 reports which were later condensed into a 32-page report supported by various annexes.

The witness testified that Petra Bank lacked proper administrative divisions and job descriptions for each employee, especially those authorised to sign documents, cheques etc. He said that the bank lacked proper security and safety measures applied at other Jordanian banks.

According to the witness, it was difficult to determine the exact number of daily procedures and actions which involved fraud, largely because many of the documents had been destroyed or had disappeared.

He said that Petra Bank used to give credit facilities far exceeding funds deposited by the clients in violation of CBJ regulations and that many loans were given to financially-troubled companies and other businesses.

## Al Ra'i turns 20

(Continued from page 1)

years of service, said.

Al Ra'i columnist Khalid Mahadid said that the newspaper was for all Jordanian and Arabs, and that was the secret behind its success.

Another columnist, Ibrahim Sakkiha, said Al Ra'i's 20th birthday was a day for all the press in Jordan. He recalled the establishment of the newspaper on June 2, 1971, when he was recalled by the foundation's former Director General Juma'a Hamud to contribute to developing the paper.

Al Ra'i columnist Salah Abdul Samad called on the newspaper staff to exercise self-criticism, saying that constructive criticism was essential for the betterment of the work of editors, reporters and writers. Such criticism depends on proper assessment of their work, and their ability to see the gaps and shortcomings and to bridge them in future.

Back Abdul Haq, a veteran columnist at Al Ra'i, voiced pride in what he termed as the

"fighting spirit," which had emerged whenever there was a crisis or a dangerous turning point, or whenever "mouths were forcibly shut and pens broken." The paper has always known how to deal equal blows to those trying to suffocate it, without revenge or reprisal. In doing so the paper functioned properly in accordance with the decent journalistic performance which is based on the respect of facts, however hard they were. Abdul Haq, however, criticised the newspaper management and a "one-man show that characterises its administration."

Ibrahim Bakr, a Jordanian advocate, said that one could not make a consistent evaluation of Al Ra'i throughout the years, because it passed through different stages, each one characterised by different political and intellectual features depending on the editor in chief and the team of editors and writers.

# The irresistible surge from the south: Worsening North-South inequalities will intensify the migratory flow toward Europe

ILO feature

THE concept of the "North-South gap," like so many other clichés, has become so commonplace as to obscure the risks of upheaval inherent in the imbalances that it sets out to portray.

The people of the North tend to think that the South is far away and the threat is not imminent.

What if the gap were at their doorstep and the explosion already programmed? This is exactly the situation in which the European countries bordering the north shore of the Mediterranean find themselves, confronting the strong demographic pressure from countries situated on the other shore.

According to a study recently published by the ILO, the countries of the southern shore and Turkey, which contained only one-third of the population of the Mediterranean basin in 1950, today account for more than half and will constitute two-thirds in 2025. Their 62 million inhabitants in 1950 had increased to 165 million in 1990 and will reach more than 285 million in 2025.

"The highest per capita GNP of these countries of the South — Algeria with \$2,680 — is only two-thirds of the lowest GNP of the other group, Greece with \$4,020. At the other extreme, per capita income in France, whose level is the highest among the four EEC countries mentioned, is more than 20 times higher than the lowest of the other group, Morocco with \$620."

"The increasing differences ... can only increase the probability of more widespread migratory movements, including those of an irregular type," the study says.

The countries of the Mediterranean basin can be divided into two fairly homogeneous groups based on a number of indicators, notably economic and demographic: on the one hand, in the north, four countries of the EEC (Spain, France, Greece, Italy) and Yugoslavia; on the other hand, in the south, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

The study underlines the contrasts existing between these two groups in terms of:

— growth and per capita income;

— demographic trends and population structure;

— increase in available employment and capacity to absorb labour.

While the European countries have registered a fairly continuous sustained growth, with the gaps between them narrowing down, the past decade has seen the birth and expansion of an unprecedented crisis in the whole Maghreb region, in Egypt and in Turkey, characterised by an almost general decline in the rate of growth and an increase in unemployment.

The highest per capita GNP of these countries of the South — Algeria with \$2,680 — is only two-thirds of the lowest GNP of the other group, Greece with \$4,020. At the other extreme, per capita income in France, whose level is the highest among the four EEC countries mentioned, is more than 20 times higher than the lowest of the other group, Morocco with \$620. The average gap between the per capita GNP of these two groups has moreover continued to widen, rising from \$1,500 in 1970 to nearly \$7,000 in 1987.

Although unemployment in Europe is stabilising — if at high levels — it has considerably increased in countries such as Algeria, where the rate went from 13.7 per cent in 1984 to nearly 23 per cent in 1987. The proportion of young people under 25 years of age among the unemployed is high throughout the south, notably in Algeria (80 per cent) and in Morocco (71.8 per cent).

It is, however, in demographic terms that the disparities between the Mediterranean's North and South are the most striking.

The European countries report an overall slowing down of their population growth, to 3 per cent between 1980 and 1990 against 8 per cent during the preceding decade. This trend will be accentuated in coming years, the rate even becoming negative in some cases, for example in Italy. Ageing will rapidly advance, with the average proportion of people over 65 increasing from 8 per cent in 1950 to 12 per cent in 1990 and reaching 18 per cent in 2025. The decline in the rate of growth of the active population, already noticeable in the 1980s, will lead to a fall in its absolute numbers in practically all these countries from 2010. The foreseeable manpower shortage will be all the more serious because of a drop in activity rates perceptible in all these countries, from 43 per cent

on average in 1950 to 40 per cent in 1980.

The countries of the southern Mediterranean basin are, in contrast, experiencing an unprecedented demographic explosion, provoked by high fertility together with a noticeable drop in mortality. These countries have recorded, in the space of some 20 years, an increase equal to nearly half of their population; by the year 2025 the increase is expected to be of the order of two-thirds as the total population of the Mediterranean basin reaches a forecast 442 million.

The changes in the age struc-

nure are no less significant: in 1990, the under-14 youngsters represented 40 per cent of the whole population and in the years to come the proportion of the active population (15-64 years) will continue to increase and should represent more than two-thirds of the total population in the year 2025.

Moreover, there is a trend towards an increased rate of activity in the countries of the South, attributed to a still relatively weak but steadily rising female participation: the rate of activity of women in Algeria is expected to rise from 3.5 per cent in 1980

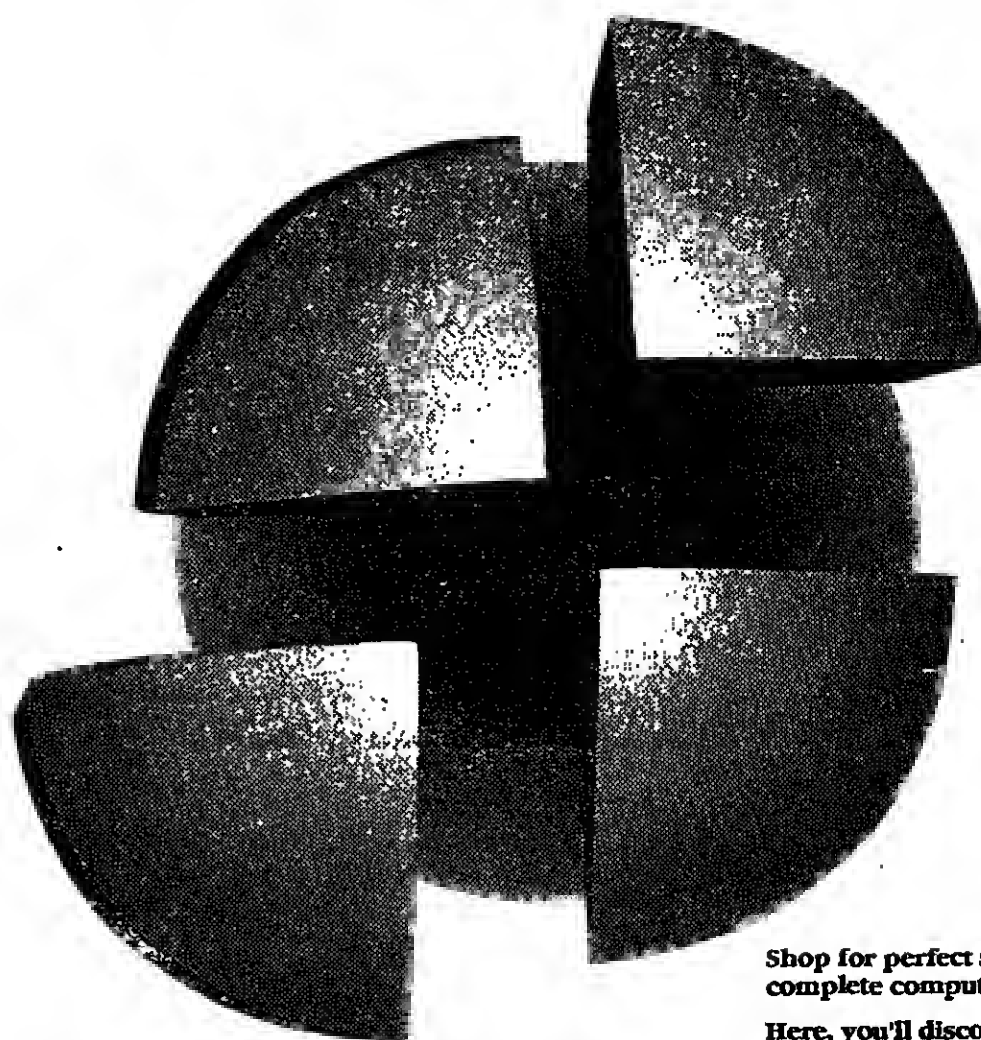
to 5.5 per cent in the year 2000, and to 11 per cent in 2025, and the comparable rate in Tunisia is forecast to rise from 12.6 to 18 then to 19 per cent.

While in the four member countries of the EEC, rates of employment should increase even more rapidly as a result of economic growth, as manpower resources stagnate or even decline, in the countries of the South and Turkey the problem will be that of satisfying an active population which will double in volume in an economic context which will become even less favourable with the loss of an enormous number

of jobs in certain sectors which were major users of manpower in the early 1960s, the ILO study states.

Everything indicates that the EEC countries will experience serious manpower shortages on the threshold of 2025 or even earlier, while in the South, the service sector will not be in a position to absorb the surplus of active workers released by agriculture and industry at the height of restructuring. These imbalances constitute an irresistible impulse for South-North migration in multiple forms, concludes the study.

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New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

## Weekly F.X. Market Summary (May 27 — May 31, 1991)

THE U.S. dollar moved lower in mostly technical trading early last week, as the market awaited the release of new economic data to add direction to trading activity. But lack of follow-through selling in mid-week combined with the release of positive U.S. economic data for April and May at the end of the week to lift the dollar to substantially higher levels than those attained at the end of the previous week.

The dollar traded lower in the Far East Monday, dropping below support at (1.70) marks, as sentiment for the German currency continued to be positive, and expectations of a continued mark rally prevailed. But lack of follow-through selling due to the absence of U.K. and U.S. dealers on official holidays put a floor under the dollar.

A brief dollar rally took place in Tokyo and Europe Tuesday. As the yen/dollar rate remained stuck in a tight range, its downward potential limited by fear of Bank of Japan intervention, and its upside restricted by exporter selling, the mark's failure to breach (81.5) yen caused EMS currencies to drop against the dollar as dealers liquidated long mark positions. Later in New York, however, the dollar's failure to breach resistance at (1.7125) marks, and the release of the Consumer Confidence Index for May in the U.S. to reveal a drop for the second month in a row caused a sharp dollar decline. The U.S. currency closed at its lowest level for the week at (1.6930/40) marks, (137.43/48) yen and at (1.7480/90) dollars to the sterling pound.

The dollar rallied again Wednesday, however, after failing to drop below support (1.69) marks. The release of 1st quarter GNP figures in the U.S. to show a drop of (2.6%), revised from the (2.8%) drop released earlier, came within market expectations and had no effect on exchange rate levels. Observers maintained that these figures represented past events and did not provide any insights as to the future direction of the U.S. economy.

The Wednesday rally continued Thursday, after the mark failed to breach resistance at (81.5) yen for the second time in a row. With the Japanese currency remaining below (138) yen, EMS currencies declined further against the dollar, as the market awaited the release of a batch of U.S. economic indicators the next day.

Friday witnessed a strong dollar rally, as bullish sentiment about the direction of the U.S. economy returned. The bullishness was inspired by the release of three positive economic reports, including April's leading indicators, which rose by (0.6%), while the market had expected a (0.4%) rise, and factory orders for April, which showed improvement for the first time in six months, rising by (1.8%). Furthermore, the Chicago Purchasing Managers Index, which reflects conditions in 200 industrial businesses, rose sharply to (47.7%) in May, from (42.1%) the previous month, and was interpreted as a proxy to the National Purchasing Managers Index due to be released this week. With dollar bullishness reasserting itself, the U.S. currency rose to close in New York at its highest levels for the week. Meanwhile, the mark dropped to (79.40) yen, from (81.17) yen at the end of the previous week, while sterling, handicapped by expectations of lower interest rates in Britain, dropped from (239.97) yen to (234.85) yen during the same period.

The dollar is expected to rise further in the short run, particularly if U.S. employment figures for May, due to be released next week, confirm a U.S. economic rebound.

### Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	24/5/1991	31/5/1991
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.66	6.43
Sterling Pound	11.62	10.93
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.93
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.75
French Franc	9.12	9.06
Japanese Yen	7.87	7.40

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### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.682	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1565	1.1623
Deutsche Mark	.3911	.3931
Swiss Franc	.4588	.4611
French Franc	.1153	.1159
Japanese Yen	.4921	.4946
Dutch Guilder	.3473	.3490
Swedish Krona	.1098	.1103
Italian Lira	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01900	.01910

## U.S. transfers \$115m to Egypt

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States has transferred \$115 million to Egypt to support the Cairo government's economic reform programme, announced the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in a press release.

The aid agreement was signed in Cairo last week by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner, Mr. Marshall Brown, mission director for the USAID, and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, Egypt's minister for international cooperation.

According to USAID, the funds will support Egyptian government efforts to promote a market economy and end inefficient public sector subsidies. They will also finance imports from the United States and repay non-military Egyptian debts to the United States and the World Bank.

Egypt currently lacks sufficient foreign exchange to repay its external debts and import the goods and services needed to revitalize its economy.

Earlier this year, Congress specified that some of the economic assistance provided annually to Egypt could be transferred in cash if the Cairo government undertook significant economic reforms beyond those of previous years. The cash transfer programme began in 1984.

Following more than a year of discussions with USAID and the World Bank, Egypt has implemented a programme of reforms in agriculture, industry, and energy.

For example, the government established a competitive free market exchange rate, abolished ceilings on loans and credit interest rates, reduced subsidies for energy, consumer goods and transportation, and liberalised agricultural pricing policy.

Significant subsidy reductions are planned in energy, transportation, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods and agricultural inputs. The government has also agreed to remove trade restrictions and reform the tariff structure, and reduce and tightly control its investment budget.

Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance, having received over \$16,000 million since 1974. About 80 per cent of that aid finances imports of U.S. products and projects in such sectors as agriculture, energy, telecommunications, health and nutrition, water and wastewater.

USAID is the government agency that administers U.S. economic and humanitarian assistance programmes in more than 90 countries worldwide.

## Poehl cautions EC against rushing into full economic union

LONDON (R) — German Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl has warned the European Community (EC) against rushing into monetary union before national economies followed similar lines.

Mr. Poehl, speaking at a conference in London on EC Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), underscored Britain's concern that the outlook was poor for a convergence of inflation within the 12-nation trade bloc.

"Within the next two or three years, the chances of more convergence on inflation are small. On the contrary, there is a risk the divergences could widen," Mr. Poehl said.

"At present progress toward more convergent economic and fiscal policies and their results seems to have halted, if not reversed," he added.

Mr. Poehl echoed comments made earlier by British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont who said economic divergences in the EC were considerable, with inflation rates ranging from 2.5 per cent to 21 per cent.

Mr. Lamont rejected any premature move against a single European currency, one of the key elements of economic and monetary union, but said there was a basis for an agreement between Britain and its 11 EC partners.

He welcomed as constructive a proposal by European Commission President Jacques Delors for talks on monetary union to go ahead while leaving it up to EC national parliaments to make the final decision on whether to take part.

"We cannot accept any changes to the (EC's founding) Treaty of Rome that would bind us to move to a single currency or single monetary policy without a separate decision by the United Kingdom government or parliament," Mr. Poehl said.

Mr. Lamont said. Britain stands apart from its EC partners in its refusal to accept in principle the goal of a single currency but it is fully engaged in talks on closer integration of monetary policy.

Although Mr. Lamont made no direct reference to the Delors proposal, made three weeks ago, his remarks were seen as the first authoritative response by the British government.

He said: "We are pleased to see increasing recognition among our partners that accommodating the U.K. view is both possible and necessary and we are grateful for all indications of goodwill and constructive intent on this subject."

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, in remarks delivered at the conference by an adviser in his office, said no country could be forced to move to a common EC currency.

A senior British official, commenting on Mr. Lamont's speech, said Britain was not specifically accepting Mr. Delors's proposals at this time but acknowledged an agreement on EC monetary union could be reached by the end of 1991.

Mr. Lamont said a premature move to a single currency — before the European economies had converged — could cause a huge increase in Community spending to finance fiscal transfers to poorer regions.

Mr. Poehl, commenting on the future of a proposed EC central bank, said any attempts to limit the ability of a bank to pursue an independent monetary policy should be firmly resisted.

"International investors will be quick to spot the weak points in the ECB's (European Central Bank System) defences against Community or government interference or temptation to yield to outside pressure," Mr. Poehl said.

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## Tunisia expects no economic growth because of Gulf crisis

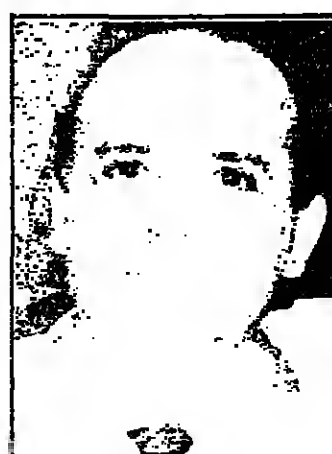
TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's foreign exchange reserves have sunk to a new low and the economy may register zero growth this year because of the Gulf crisis, Finance Minister Mohammad Ghannouchi has said.

Mr. Ghannouchi told Reuters in an interview that the reserves had fallen to \$350 million at the end of May.

He predicted the gross domestic product would remain unchanged and, unless tourism picked up, the balance of payments deficit for the year could reach \$650 million.

Mr. Ghannouchi said Tunisia had lost nearly \$500 million because of the Gulf crisis but had so far not received any aid from a United Nations fund created to help countries with economies hit by the crisis.

A fall in tourism, a major hard currency earner, and a trade embargo imposed on Iraq after it



Mohammad Ghannouchi

seized Kuwait last August both hit Tunisia's economy.

However, Mr. Ghannouchi said there were "certain favourable signs which if confirmed could have a positive impact on

the year, mainly regarding foreign trade and agriculture."

During the first four months of 1991 exports had grown by 10 per cent over the same period in 1990 while imports had increased by five per cent.

Preliminary forecasts pointed to a better-than-expected harvest, Mr. Ghannouchi added.

Agricultural experts say that thanks to abundant rainfall throughout the farming season the cereal crop should be above last season's 1.6 million tonnes, or one-third more than the annual average.

The balance of payments deficit predicted by Mr. Ghannouchi would still be better than initial forecasts at the beginning of the year which put the deficit between \$750 million and \$900 million. Last year's deficit was \$400 million.

"Steps taken in time by the government, mainly boosting ex-

ports efforts, enabled us to partially attenuate the effects of the crisis," Mr. Ghannouchi said.

The slump in tourism is the main cause of the bigger deficit, with revenues expected to decline by 40 per cent from last year's nearly \$1 billion.

The minister said Tunisia may have to resort to International Monetary Fund (IMF) facilities and faster World Bank disbursements to support the structural adjustment programme implemented in Tunisia since 1986.

In an unusual move last year, Tunisia asked the IMF to reduce its \$275 million share in the fund by one third. Tunisia did not use IMF facilities in the past three years because its balance of payments was improving.

Mr. Ghannouchi said Tunisia had a "safety net" of \$600 million in financial aid programmes agreed by foreign government and international agencies.

## Islamic chamber plans trust fund

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE) plans to set up an Islamic trust fund to promote trade and industry in the Muslim World, an exchange official has said.

Mr. Agha Ghouse, assistant secretary general of ICCICE, said the fund should be established under the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Ghouse was speaking in an interview ahead of the inauguration of the exchange's headquarters in Karachi on Monday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan.

The ICCICE was set up after representatives of chambers of commerce and industry of Islamic countries met in Karachi in 1978.

Mr. Ghouse said the exchange

coordinated efforts of Muslim countries and made recommendations for finance from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank and technical assistance from other agencies.

He said the exchange had helped in the establishment of a petroleum storage project in Mali, a salt extraction plant in Niger and a palm oil venture in Cameroon.

"The exchange plans to increase bilateral and multilateral trade in future," said Mr. Ghouse.

He said Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen would be among eight less developed Islamic countries attending a second ICCICE investment promotion meeting in Karachi in November.

## Arctic route said to offer shipping revolution

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — Officials from Norway and Alaska have said they are completing studies of an Arctic Ocean transport route connecting North America, Europe and the Far East that could make the Suez and Panama canals obsolete.

Mr. Arntfinn Jorgensen-Dahl, polar programme director of Norway's Fridtjof Nansen Institute, said a test shipment, the first phase of studies into the northern sea route, will be completed this summer.

"During the course of the next few years, we will see developments that will have the potential of revolutionising the transport routes of today," he said.

Mr. Jorgensen-Dahl was

attending a two-day meeting of the Northern Forum, an organisation of leaders from Arctic and sub-Arctic nations established last year to promote environmental protection, cultural awareness and economic development across international boundaries.

Delegates included representatives from Canada, the Soviet Union, Japan, Finland, Norway, Korea, China and Washington State.

Using the so-called northern route, which skirts the icepack in a radius around the North Pole, would dramatically shrink the distance and time required for shipments between Europe, the Far East and the U.S. west coast, Mr. Jorgensen-Dahl said.

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## France faces challenge on jobs as government trims growth forecast

PARIS (R) — The French government has cut its forecast for seasonal variations, shrank from economic growth foreshadowing an uphill struggle for new Prime Minister Edith Cresson in her fight against rising unemployment.

Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy told the senate, the upper house of parliament, that growth could fall well short of the government's 1991 target of two per cent.

France flirted with recession in the first quarter of 1991, when output of goods and services was flat after shrinking by 0.2 per cent between October and December. Recession is generally defined as two consecutive quarters of falling output.

"I tell you frankly, unless there is a stronger than expected recovery in the United States, we will be hard pressed to have growth over the year of over 1.5 per cent," Mr. Berégovoy said.

He said France was suffering from a slowdown in Europe, except for West Germany, and the failure of the United States to pull smartly out of a recession induced by the Gulf crisis.

A slump in U.S. demand for imports caused France's trade deficit with the U.S. to surge to 5.5 billion francs (\$950 million) in April from 3.87 billion (\$670 million) in March, the customs office has said.

But, thanks in part to its first trade surplus in recent times with Germany, France managed to halve its overall trade deficit in April to 2.07 billion francs (\$360 million).

The trade gap, adjusted for seasonal variations, shrank from 4.22 billion francs (\$730 million) in March.

France also benefited in April from a lower oil bill and higher food exports but ran another large deficit in trade in industrial goods of 4.61 billion francs (\$800 million).

Mrs. Cresson has vowed to reinvigorate French industry so that it can compete better in the single European market set for 1993 and create the jobs needed to bring down France's above-average jobless rate of 9.4 per cent.

Government ministers see high unemployment as the root cause of widespread disaffection among French youth, which periodically erupts into violence.

In the latest of a series of incidents, a youth of Arab origin who was arrested in weekend riots in a Paris immigrant suburb died after a heart attack in police custody.

"The fight against unemployment is this government's main priority," Mr. Berégovoy told a radio interviewer. "Everything must be subordinated to an effective campaign against unemployment."

But he insisted that France could not spend its way out of unemployment and said he was determined to prevent the budget deficit, targeted to be 80 billion francs (\$13.8 billion) this year, from rising.

The cabinet is currently discussing a bill that will increase government revenues by about two billion francs (\$350 million).

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## NATO changing course, but France is on different tack

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO, expected to chart a new political course for the post-cold war era at a meeting of foreign ministers this week, is struggling to convince France that it should come on board for the sake of Western unity.

NATO sources say France, which resents U.S. leadership of the 16-nation alliance and left its military structure in 1966, is looking increasingly isolated as the foreign ministers prepare for two days of talks in Copenhagen.

There are several key areas of disagreement, which all go to the heart of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) role in the new European order. Paris is reluctant to extend NATO's responsibilities beyond that of defending the West from what remains of Soviet military power.

France is arguing about how far to extend contacts with NATO's former cold war enemies, how Western Europe should develop a more independent and stronger defence identity and the shape of the alliance's new strategy.

"Those also happen to be the

three main issues for Copenhagen, so you can expect some fairly plain speaking," said a NATO source who asked not to be identified.

Time is pressing. NATO leaders will hold a summit later this year, probably in Rome in November, to approve a blueprint for keeping the alliance healthy into the 21st century.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner echoed the view of many allied nations when he said last week that closer cooperation with France would be welcome.

But France is unhappy about a proposal to extend contacts between NATO and Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union.

Most NATO allies, led by the United States, want the foreign ministers' meeting Thursday and Friday to approve a package of measures that would bring the alliance closer to its former enemies, to give them a greater sense of security.

These would include more high-ranking political visits in

the proposed strategy — particularly in the area of nuclear weapons.

"I do have reservations about (NATO's) political strategy," President Francois Mitterrand said last week.

The French also want to see a stronger European defence identity created within the 12-nation European Community.

Washington and most of its allies are opposed to this, because they say it could undermine the trans-Atlantic link at the heart of NATO. They would welcome stronger European defences, but only within the framework of NATO.

Mitterrand was sceptical about NATO's creation last week of a new military force structure, including "rapid reaction" units to face potential threats in the post-cold war era.

He said this could preempt France's ambitions to create a defence identity for the European Community and stressed that his country would have nothing to do with such a force, since France plays no part in NATO's military structures.



Jonas Savimbi

## Rebel chief to step down if defeated in polls

LISBON (AP) — Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said Sunday he will step down as head of the rebel movement he created 25 years ago if he loses in Angola's first free elections planned for the fall of 1992.

"If I lose I will ask to be replaced by someone younger," said the 56-year-old Savimbi. "I cannot be in opposition. I will step down."

Savimbi spoke to journalists in the Portuguese capital two days after signing peace accords with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos to end their 16-year civil war.

He said he was confident that his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA, will win the elections and that he will become the southern African nation's first freely elected president.

Savimbi outlined his vision for a democratic Angola, saying the new political system should give strong powers to a head of state elected for a five-year term. He said the president should serve a maximum of two terms.

The guerrilla chief said he will return to the Angolan capital of Luanda in early July to conduct UNITA's election campaign.

Savimbi started his guerrilla struggle in 1966 against Portuguese colonial rule in Angola. After independence in 1975 he fought the pro-Soviet Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA, which gained power.

Savimbi dismissed speculation other groups could emerge in Angola to challenge both warring factions in next year's elections. "The MPLA has a possibility to win, UNITA too, but a third force, no."

Tribal divisions that have brought conflicts to other African nations will not be a major factor in the Angolan election campaign, Savimbi said.

He said a future UNITA government will pay back external debts incurred by the MPLA administration. Much of the estimated \$6.5-billion foreign debt is with the Soviet Union, which supplied the government with arms to fight the civil war.

The Soviet Union and the United States, UNITA's main international backers, agreed to stop lethal aid to their Angolan allies after Friday's peace treaty.

Savimbi said he hoped U.S. humanitarian aid to UNITA will increase.

After leaving Lisbon Sunday, Savimbi was scheduled to travel to the northern Portuguese city of Oporto for meetings with business leaders.

He said he will no longer discourage international investment in Angola, potentially one of Africa's richest nations.

"I'm not going to fight a battle I cannot win," he said. "Foreign investment is welcome." Previously he had urged foreign businesses to wait until after elections before investing.

## Georgia offers to mediate between Armenians, Azeris

MOSCOW (R) — Georgia has offered to mediate between its quarrelling Transcaucasian neighbours Armenia and Azerbaijan and proposed a summit between the three Soviet republics.

A statement signed by newly-elected President Zviad Gamsakhurdia blamed the Kremlin for the bloodshed of recent weeks. Armenia says more than 50 people have died while Azerbaijan puts the death toll somewhat lower.

The statement, issued through the Georgian News Agency Iveria, said both sides must realise that stability in the region would do much to help the republics achieve real sovereignty.

"The Georgian government is deeply convinced that the conflict between the two neighbouring peoples is entirely inspired by the Kremlin, acting on the notorious principle of 'divide and rule'," it said.

Georgia and Armenia, where nationalists swept the Communists from power in elections last year, have announced their intention to secede from the Soviet Union.

Armenian-Azeri hostility goes back centuries. But the current flare-up, which has taken several hundred lives in the past three

years, is over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh — inhabited mainly by Armenians but located inside Azerbaijan.

Armenia says the Kremlin has sent Soviet and Azeri troops to persecute Armenians in Azerbaijan and along the border as a reprisal for its attempt to secede.

Moscow blames the violence on armed Armenian extremists and says the troops are merely trying to disarm them to prevent inter-ethnic bloodshed.

Gamsakhurdia's statement said there were no disputes which could not be solved by negotiation. He called on the Armenian and Azerbaijani governments to stop use of force against each other and begin talks.

"For its part the Georgian leadership is ready to be a mediator in peace talks between the neighbouring republics and proposes, calling a Transcaucasian summit in Tbilisi in the near future," the statement said.

President Mikhail Gorbachev summoned the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents to Moscow in early May but they met him separately. Representatives of the two republics' Communist parties did meet recently, however.

## 10,000 march in Hong Kong to mark Peking massacre

HONG KONG (AP) — About 10,000 people in this British colony staged a rally and march on Sunday to mark the second anniversary of the military crackdown on the democracy movement in China.

The demonstrators gathered at a downtown park before marching three miles to the Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto embassy in the territory.

They carried placards calling for the release of dissidents and sang patriotic songs. The protesters also chanted slogans such as "don't forget June 4" and "end one party rule in China."

Many wore white as a sign of mourning for those who died in the crackdown.

Organisers said about 20,000 people participated in the protest. Police put the figure closer to 10,000.

The protest was smaller than one last year, when at least 80,000 staged a similar march.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed when the Chinese army suppressed the Democracy Movement in 1989. Many more were arrested and jailed without trial throughout China in the

months that followed.

In an address to the crowd, Szeto Wah, chairman of the Hong Kong alliance in support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China, which organised Sunday's rally, said he was touched by the number of people who made the effort to join the gathering.

"It has been two years since the June 4 massacre. Despite various pressures and difficulties we have encountered, your very presence here shows that Hong Kong people are patriotic," Szeto said.

"We should be proud of ourselves that we play the role of being China's outpost of Democracy Movement, and Hong Kong's democracy movement would one day be party of China's Democracy Movement," he said.

China has labeled the alliance as "counterrevolutionary," for its alleged role in helping dissidents escape China.

The crackdown in China triggered international condemnation and residents here were particularly concerned because the territory reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

## Sihanouk to chair supreme council; ceasefire extended

JAKARTA (AP) — Hun Sen, head of the Vietnamese-backed government in Cambodia, agreed Sunday to allow rebel leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to chair an interim council that will guide Cambodia until general elections are held.

The agreement came as three days of peace talks on ending the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict opened here. The talks are co-chaired by Indonesia and France.

Hun Sen, who will act as vice-chairman of the body, called the Supreme National Council, said he and Sihanouk also decided to extend a monthlong ceasefire between their warring forces. He would not elaborate on how long the ceasefire would last.

The new council will be composed of seven pro-Hun Sen representatives and seven representatives of Sihanouk and the rebel forces. The current council was based on six government representatives and six from the coalition of rebel forces.

The coalition forces had split their six seats between Sihanouk's group and the two other

factions in the coalition — the Khmer People's National Liberation Front under former Prime Minister Son Sann and the notorious Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the three rebel groups.

A ceasefire between Hun Sen's government and the rebels was proposed in April by France, Indonesia and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the main brokers of the Cambodian peace process.

The ceasefire began on May 1 and was to last until at least the end of the peace talks in Jakarta.

But the Khmer Rouge have said they may resume fighting on June 5 if the Jakarta talks do not produce an agreement.

Hun Sen acknowledged he was unsure of whether the extension would be respected by the Khmer Rouge.

Upon arrival in Jakarta Saturday, Hun Sen said he planned to call for the convening of an international tribunal to try the Khmer Rouge for atrocities they committed during their 1975-1978 rule.

## 9 killed in S. African township violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Masked gunmen sprayed bullets and hacked three people to death after bursting into a house in South Africa's Natal province, police said Sunday.

The three members of a family in the township of Ngqeleni were among nine people killed in faction fighting overnight, they said.

All three were well-known members of the African National Congress, the ANC said in a statement.

The ANC has been the target of repeated attacks in recent months by members of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party Ngqeleni is an ANC stronghold.

Two men were killed by a hand grenade being handled by one of them in Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg.

Two bodies with bullet and stab wounds were found in Alexandra and two men were killed in Kaitlhone township, east of Johannesburg.

About 2,000 people have been killed in the last nine months of township fighting.

## S. Korean students clash with police

SEOUL (R) — Thousands of South Korean students and workers hurled petrol bombs and rocks at police in Seoul and Pusan Sunday in violent anti-government protests.

In Kwangju, high school student Kint Chol-Soo, died in hospital two weeks after setting himself on fire. He was the ninth anti-government protester to commit suicide since police beat student Kang Kyung-Dae to death on April 26.

In Seoul, riot police fired tear-gas shells from armoured vans at a crowd of nearly 10,000 students and workers staging a sit-down rally at an intersection in the heart of the capital.

Chanting slogans, the protesters denounced the government of President Roh Tae-Woo for "murderous" crackdowns on student protests and the labour movement.

They threw petrol bombs at riot police on the main roads, which had painted in red with the legend: "Murderous politics, terror politics — Roh Tae-Woo."

They demanded disbandment of the widely-feared internal intelligence agency which they blame for the death on May 6 of convicted labour activist Park Chang-Su.

Roh has been forced by a month of widespread anti-government demonstrations, the worst since 1987, to sack his prime minister and five other ministers.

The clash in Seoul erupted after dozens of students threw petrol bombs at riot police to clear a way to the city hall, where organisers planned to hold a mass rally in defiance of a government ban.

The protesters rampaged through other main streets in the capital after being dispersed by police, witnesses said.

In Pusan, South Korea's second city, thousands of students and workers battled with police in heavy rain after staging an anti-government rally in Pusan University.

The fighters were among more than 30,000 protesters, mostly students, who had held a three-day campus rally to commemorate the anniversary of the National Student Alliance Chon-dae-ho.

Riot police countered with barrages of tear gas shells to prevent protesters reaching streets in the centre of the port for a planned anti-government gathering.

Morale has fallen in the overwhelmingly Catholic nation as hopes for quick prosperity under democracy have evaporated. The Solidarity government faces protests against its economic policies.

The church's popularity has also slipped amid charges that it is trying to impose its beliefs on the new democratic state.

Before flying across Poland to Rzeszow, the Pope told a field mass for 30,000 soldiers near Koszalin that the army was returning to its true role as defender of the fatherland under democracy.

He pointedly compared the army's victory over the Red Army in 1920 with the Battle of Vienna in 1683 at which the Polish King Jan Sobieski turned back a Turkish invasion of Europe.

Poles traditionally revere the army, but it was hated after imposing martial law in 1981 to crush the Solidarity trade union.

Opposition leaders and dissi-

## Slovenia swears in first troops in move to statehood

IG, Yugoslavia (R) — Slovenia swore in its first regular troops Sunday in a move underlining its determination to leave Yugoslavia and become an independent state this month.

Two hundred recruits took part in a simple ceremony at a territorial defence training centre in Ig, a small village near the Slovenian capital Ljubljana. A similar ceremony with 1,200 recruits was held near Maribor, close to the Austrian border.

The recruits, teenagers wearing camouflage uniforms and brimmed caps, took an oath to defend Slovenia's independence and territorial integrity. Families and girlfriends looked on.

They were the first conscripts designated to serve in the republic of Slovenia's armed forces rather than the Yugoslav army.

Slovenia, which borders Italy, Austria and Hungary, has transformed its territorial defence or home guard into the nucleus of a national army prior to breaking

with Yugoslavia.

"This is a great moment for you who take the oath and a great moment for our homeland," said Janez Slapar, a commander of the force. Slovenia has never been an independent state and these are the first troops it has ever had.

Slovenia plans to proclaim independence on June 26 and neighbouring Croatia says it will follow suit four days later.

Yugoslavia, a multi-ethnic federation of 23.5 million people living in six republics and two provinces, is sliding towards disintegration because of the inability of its leaders to agree on the future shape of the country.

Croatia swore in its first army units Tuesday in a grandiose ceremony steeped in national symbols, flags, heraldry, folklore, elaborate costumes and heroic rhetoric.

The Slovenian ceremony was sparse by contrast, with only a few flags, folk songs and a speech from Slovenia's president.

## Huge crowd greets Pope on 2nd day of Polish tour

RZESZOW, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul, on his first visit to democratic Poland, received the biggest welcome of his tour Sunday from a huge crowd in the heart of rural Poland where the farmers' Solidarity union was born.

The Pope, who began his nine-day visit speaking of his joy at the fall of East European communism, was greeted by an ocean of yellow-and-white Papal flags as he drove into Rzeszow in an open "popemobile."

The estimated turnout of 600,000 in the south-eastern city appeared to lay to rest fears that the Pope's fourth visit to his homeland would arouse less enthusiasm than previous visits when he symbolised Poland's struggle against communism.

His visits in 1979, 1983 and 1987 encouraged Poles in the fight against communism and his masses drew millions. On Saturday less than half the expected 500,000 people attended the first mass of tour amid wind and rain in the north-western city of Koszalin.

It can be concluded that one of the two engines that were computer controlled during ascent was suddenly switched to reverse," the statement said.

"The pilots tried to solve this totally unforeseen problem with the aid of the flight manual, but were unable to do so."

"The plane became unspoolable, stalled and broke apart."

The statement said a thorough investigation of both engines recovered from the plane had begun immediately after the voice recordings had been deciphered.

The flight data recorder from the plane had been so badly damaged that investigators had been unable to elicit any significant data from it.

Streicher's statement said the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority had not taken any steps to suspend flights of aircraft with similar engines. But it said all Austrian operators had been ordered to carefully investigate such engines for faults.

## Computer fault could have caused Lauda air crash

VIENNA (R) — A computer fault which turned one engine into reverse could have caused the crash of a Boeing airliner in Thailand a week ago, Austrian Transport Minister Rudolf Streicher said Sunday.

The Lauda Air Boeing 767-300 crashed shortly after takeoff from Bangkok last Sunday, killing all 223 people on board.

An official statement from Streicher said a cockpit voice recording being analysed in

Washington indicated that the pilots were trying to repair the fault when the plane crashed.

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## N. Korea 'unchanged in basic strategy' towards South

SEOUL (R) — North Korea's decision to apply for separate membership of the United Nations does not mean it has changed its basic strategy against South Korea, South Korea's foreign minister said Sunday.

"North Korea's applying to the U.N. does not mean it has changed its policies against the South," Minister Lee Sang-Ok said in a televised interview with the state Korea Broadcasting System (KBS).

"Therefore, it's not desirable at the moment for us to bring up issues such as the revision of the National Security Law and disbandment of the United Nations Command here," Lee said.

"We can handle the issues one by one after reducing tension between South and North Korea and settling measures to bring about peace in the peninsula."

Opposition leaders and dissi-

dents have demanded revision of the National Security Law, which bans South Koreans from any type of contact with the North, on grounds the law as it stands could perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula. The offence can carry the death penalty.

Troops of North and South Korea, armed to the teeth, still face each other across the truce line drawn at the end of the 1950-53 Korean war.

The U.N. Command was set up in 1950 to maintain peace in the peninsula on the basis of the July 7, 1950 resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council.

North Korea last Tuesday reversed decades of opposition and said it would seek a seat of its own in the United Nations. Pyongyang had insisted that both Koreas share a single seat, a proposal rejected by Seoul as impractical.

Seoul said last year it would seek a separate U.N. seat.

"If South and North Korea's entry to the U.N. is realised, then on Sept. 17, the opening of the U.N. General Assembly, (South Korea) President Roh Tae-Woo would give a speech," Lee said.

The North Korean application came as a surprise to the South Korean government, which said that the decision was bound to help relax inter-Korean tensions and move the peninsula toward a peaceful reunification.

South Koreans welcomed North Korea's change of heart but said it was simply a temporary change of tactics by the North, according to a survey published Sunday.

North Korea's decision to apply separately to the U.N. was welcome, according to 83.8 per cent of the respondents to a poll sponsored by South Korea's In-

## COLUMN

### Porn queen ties the knot

BUDAPEST (AP) — Hungarian-born porn star and Italian parliamentarian Ilona Staller has tied the knot.

Budapest with New York Post modeler artist Jeff Koons. Staller, 39, and her groom arrived in a deep-blue Mercedes limousine for a civil ceremony at the municipal marriage bureau popularly known as "Lenin chapel."

Staller was tight with only family and close friends attending. The photographers, except an officialy commissioned Italian freelance, were allowed inside. Staller wore a white shawl. She and Koons held its edges to cover the faces as they dashed into the building. A Muzak version of "what a wonderful world" could be heard from inside. From the "Lenin chapel," the wedding party went to a Protestant Church for the religious ceremony.

According to a story in the December 1990 issue of *Vanity Fair*, Koons gained fame with his stainless steel rabbits, floating baskets and a white Michael Jackson statue. Describing the couple, *Vanity Fair* said "they don't speak the same language, but they have a tongue in common."

The reception was at the fashionable Budapest eatery, Robinsons, with figurines of the young couple in marzipan on top of the wedding cake. The Hungarian daily *Kimr* reported that the couple will honeymoon in Mexico.

Fans mark Marilyn Monroe's birthday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Marilyn Monroe, who remains a sex symbol nearly three decades after her death, would have been eligible Saturday to collect social security. About 40 admirers marked her 65th birthday at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel where a sandstone sculpture of the star's head was mounted on the wall of the Cinegrill Bar, one of her former haunts. "When Marilyn was a budding starlet we would go there and she would say 'I hope when I'm famous my picture will be on the wall of the Cinegrill,'" said Robert Slatzer, longtime friend. "Now I can make that dream come true."

Other fans were expected to make the annual pilgrimage Saturday to her grave in the Westwood section of Los Angeles. Earlier this week, Marilyn "Waves" and spectators swarmed around the Matn's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood to compete in a look-alike contest. Since the 36-year-old Monroe died in 1962 in her Brentwood home from drug overdoses, dozens of books have been written about her, her relationships with John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert, and her marriages to baseball star Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller. Her first husband, retired Los Angeles police officer Jim Dougherty, who married Norma Jean Baker when she was 16, predicted she would have lost her famous hourglass figure by now. "Monroe's mother was a chubby little gal," he recalled. "So she probably would have gotten fatter as time went by too." Slatzer said he commissioned the three-dimensional portrait titled "Legend," from artist Bill Mack and donated it to the hotel. Before the hotel was remodelled, pictures of stars used to decorate the bar's walls, he said.

Medecines Sans Frontiers wins harmony prize

OVIEDO, Spain (AP) — The France-based Medecines Sans Frontiers (MSF) and Medecine Mundi International medical relief groups won the 1991 Prince of Asturias Prize for the promotion of harmony, the jury said. "Both organisations deserve recognition for their effective contributions toward alleviating situations of illness in countries most affected by injustice, misery or catastrophes," the 18-member jury in this northern city said in a statement. "Their generous extension of professional commitment and promotion of altruistic volunteerism... is an exemplary display of the values of solidarity, upon which genuine harmony among human beings is based," according to the statement. The prize consists of 5 million pesetas (\$30,000) and a statue created by Spanish artist Joan Miro. A group of 10 French doctors concerned about the impact of war on people in Biafra founded MSF — Doctors Without Borders — in 1971 to ensure that medical care got to refugees and other people needing it despite political obstacles.